

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Paul Georghiades (Chair), John Bailey, Steven Burch, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

Press: None

25/08. Apologies for absence: Cllr Sue Clarke

25/09. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

25/10. To approve and sign the minutes from the Finance Committee held on 16th April 2025:

Minutes signed by Cllr Georghiades

25/11. Initial discussion following receipt of two larger grant applications with recommendations to full Council:

The Wool Hub – Request for £1,000 towards total running costs of £5,700 including rent of premises, utilities, insurance, drop-in session and host payments.

It was noted that there is now a recurring theme from some organisations to apply for funding to support running costs rather than a specific project.

The Larger Grants policy states that 3 consecutive bank statements must be submitted. 2 were provided with this application so that the application is incomplete.

Although the grant is for running costs there is no breakdown of figures to support this so what the £1,000 will pay for is unclear.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee although very supportive of this project are unable to recommend this application to full Council until further information is provided prior to the meeting scheduled for 16th July 2025 as follows:

- A bank statement for March or June 2025.
- A basic accounting statement which breaks down predicted expenditure and what exactly the £1,000 grant will pay for?
- Clarification of workshop income?
- Do the volunteers receive any payment?

Buckfastleigh Social Supermarket – This popular weekly service to residents is supported by the Town Council. This application is for £1,180 towards a total cost of £1,680

The Clerk asked for a copy of the May bank statement to support previous statements submitted with a smaller grant application in May. The June statement was submitted instead.

Members acknowledge that Be Buckfastleigh (Better Places) only have one current account and one set of audited accounts for all the services Be Buckfastleigh provide, but it is difficult to understand the financial situation of each project without separate identification of income and

expenditure.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee values the contribution made by Be Buckfastleigh to the wellbeing of our residents but to proceed with this application the following information is requested prior to full Council on Wednesday 16th July:

- A bank statement for May 2025
- An accounting statement which identifies income and expenditure for the Social Supermarket only.

Action: Clerk to contact both organisations and advise accordingly.

25/12. To discuss options for round 2 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26 – Town Improvement Fund bid:

Members expressed concern that one month gives little time to submit a bid without adequate discussion, planning, obtaining quotes etc and not all Town Councils will be successful. This fund is again aimed at increasing footfall to the town with very specific criteria that must be met.

The following ideas were suggested:

- Refurbishment of the 12 Days of Christmas Boards which were previously used to decorate Fore Street - the Clerk advised that Christmas decorations do not meet the criteria.
- To update the original Town Guide.
- To fund flowers baskets/boxes with the cooperation of local businesses. Maintenance and regular watering must be agreed.
- To paint a nature themed mural on the Plymouth Road bus shelter – Teignbridge District Council have already given consent.
- As there is some conflict between running the South Devon Railway (SDR) Vintage bus under the Christmas lights catenary wires and Town Council owned bunting, to investigate funding a single decker vintage bus if SDR can facilitate this?
- Toilets for the Orchard Millennium Green – again how would this be sustainable for eg.daily cleaning and maintenance. Permanent installation would require lengthy planning and utility permissions.

Actions:

- Cllr Burch to discuss possible options with SDR.
- Clerk to speak to the original editor of the Town Guide, obtain a quote if willing to proceed and source other quotes from publishers who specialise in producing Town Guides.
- Clerk to investigate cost of flower baskets and boxes from nurseries who provide this service.

25/13. Questions and comments from the public: No public in attendance.

25/14. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.