

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance Committee** meeting held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 22nd February 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors:- Pam Barrett (Acting Chair), Fanny Jackson, Mark Maish, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and Judith Hart (Town Clerk/RFO)

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/81. Questions raised by the Public: None

17/82. Apologies: Cllrs Neil Smith and Andy Stokes

17/83. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Pam Barrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No.7) Grant Applications – the Bungalow Youth Project, as the Chair of Victoria Park. Cllr Barrett abstained from the discussion and vote.

17/84. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25.01.2017:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett

17/85. Budget Expenditure Report 01.01.17 - 31.01.17:

Noted

17/86. Bank Payments Report 01.01.17 - 31.01.17:

Noted.

The Clerk did not provide an interim bank payments report for February as there had only been one payment prior to this meeting.

17/87. Grant Applications:

The following grant applications were submitted to the Finance Committee by 31 January 2017 as follows: -

Wigram Community Association (Community News Sheet) – awarded £250.00

Bungalow Youth Project – awarded £250.00

Buckfastleigh Sharing – awarded £250.00

The Friendship Group – awarded £250.00

Smooth Space – awarded £250.00

Decision: All grant applications agreed by the Finance Committee as detailed above to be presented at the March Town Council meeting.

Cllr Fanny Jackson arrived at 8.00pm

It was suggested that representatives of the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee meet with the trustees of the Bungalow Youth Project to open a chain of communication and discuss the options of opening the building for use by other community activities pending a review of the restrictions on their lease agreement.

Action: Cllr Mark Maish to liaise with Cllr Dan Simpson as a representative of the Victoria Park trustees and request a meeting.

17/88. Proposal to sponsor the Moor Otters – a Public Arts Initiative in aid of Dartmoor National Park:

Cllr Pam Barrett explained that the Moor Otters Project is a series of 100 unique pieces of 7 feet high art which will be displayed in accessible areas to the public in and around the National Park and gateway towns during the summer. Local businesses and organisations are invited to sponsor an otter and after the season has finished, they will be auctioned to raise funds. It is understood that local attractions will be each having an otter, but because they are freestanding, they must be displayed securely.

Decision: Members agreed that this is an excellent public arts project for the town and agreed to sponsor an otter for the Town Council if the cost is within the remit of this committee. If the cost however, is higher, the project will be recommended to full Council. Cllr Barrett to clarify for the March Town Council meeting.

17/89. Review of Risk Assessment Management 2017 to recommend to the March Town Council Meeting for adoption by resolution:

Action: Recommendation to full Council to accept the current Risk Assessment Management policy.

17/90. Review of the Statement of Internal Control 2017 to recommend to the March Town Council Meeting for adoption by resolution:

Action: Recommendation to full Council to accept the current Statement of Internal Control policy.

17/91. Review of the Investment Strategy 2017 to recommend to the March Town Council Meeting for adoption by resolution:

Action: Item deferred until March full Council to discuss specific elements of the amendment request from Cllr Andy Stokes to include a statement that supports “the ethos of socially responsible investments.”

17/92: Items requiring Urgent Attention:

Cllr Pam Barrett highlighted the funding issues of supporting a new youth programme and that the initial costs need to be re-visited. A comprehensive youth consultation with parents, children, local groups and organisations is required to formulate a programme of events and free activities for 2017. A co-ordinator is needed to engage with parents and children, apply for funding and monitor feedback to the grant providers. If further funding is required this will need to be agreed by full Council.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.