

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors:- Andy Stokes (Acting Chair), Pam Barrett, Linus McCloskey and Judith Hart (Town Clerk/RFO)

In attendance: Cllr Ron Fox and one member of the public

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/93. Questions raised by the Public:

Member of the public: Clarification of the new Town Council budget and the need to raise the precept for 2017/18, for example, why is there a need for the Council to fund a helipad?

Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) carries out night flying and regularly needs to transport patients to Bristol Hospital. There is a need for Buckfastleigh to have its own helipad due to its proximity to the A38, Dartmoor National Park and because it has outdoor activities such as caving.

The football pitch has been identified by Devon Air Ambulance as the most suitable site, but the floodlights do not work. The Council is working with DAA and the football club to install a new modern, remote controlled set of lights and quotes have been received for around £14,000. This will be a one-off expenditure although there will be future maintenance costs.

The Council is aware that there is a consultation being carried out by the Government and it is likely that town and parish councils will never be able to raise more than 2% per year on their precepts again. The Council held consultation events to engage public opinion during the preparation of this budget.

Other projects identified by the public included a community bus and new CCTV for the town, but these would need a lot of work and funding to complete. It was agreed that these could not be achieved in the short term, but may be looked at in the future.

Member of the public: People do complain about local Councils, but do not attend meetings and voice their opinions.

Cllr Andy Stokes: Unfortunately, the public are not used to be asked.

The Council Tax contribution towards the Town Council was already an average of £1.00 per week and under the new budget this will now be £2.00 per week. Cllr Pam Barrett explained the reasoning behind all the projects that are being funded for 2017/18 and confirmed that the consultation process with the community will commence earlier in the year. It is also important to gather community evidence to apply for other funding streams.

17/94. Apologies: Cllrs Neil Smith, Fanny Jackson, Mark Maish and Greg Porter

17/95. Declaration of Interests: None

17/96 To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22.02.2017:

Signed and approved by Councillor Pam Barrett

17/97. Budget Expenditure Report 01.02.17 - 28.02.17:

Noted

17/98. Bank Payments Report 01.02.17 - 28.02.17 and Interim Bank Payment Report 01.03.17 – 14.03.17:

Noted.

17/99. Online Banking Update:

The Clerk advised that the online account is now up and running, but the card reader has not been received yet.

17/100. Review of the Investment Strategy 2017 with revised amendment referred from the March Town Council Meeting for adoption by resolution at April Town Council:

Item deferred for further discussion and agreement.

17/101: Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.