

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance Committee** meeting held in the Town Clerk's Office on **Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors:- Andy Stokes (Chair), Pam Barrett, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk/RFO)

In attendance: Jenny Wigram and David Ridson (Moorland Community Care Group) and Andrew Shadrake (Devon Association of Renewable Energy)

Part I (Open to the Public)

17/48. Questions raised by the Public:

Cllr Andy Stokes thanked the representatives of the Moorland Community Care Group (MCCG) for attending this meeting and providing further information.

David Ridson: The group has grown out of Bovey Community Care (BCC) which started in 2012 to provide support to lonely and isolated adults. The organisation has grown since 2013 thanks to an Awards for All start-up grant. It now has 35-40 volunteers actively involved with 90 clients. Activities include clubs and outings to the National Park and the group has helped approximately 200 people over a 4-year period. Each client is interviewed by the coordinator and then matched to a volunteer. No medical or personal care is provided.

Teignbridge CVS approached BCC and asked them to expand into the Ashburton and Buckfastleigh areas. In March 2016, Bovey Community Care became the Moorland Community Care Group which is a registered charity and this enables the organisation to apply for funding. MCCG do not want to duplicate the services provided by existing groups so are working with them to complement each other. It is important that each town maintains its own identity, so funds are managed separately by the treasurer. There are two coordinators; one in Bovey and one in Ashburton and Buckfastleigh, Suzy Williamson, who runs activities in Buckfastleigh.

MCCG are part of the "Well-Being Partnership" which includes Totnes, Dartmouth and Kingsteignton. It provides a means of applying to the NHS for funding and identifying clients in need of help. Suzy's post is part funded by this. There is however, no funding for continued support of a client.

Cllr Barrett asked about the age group served. David said it was not age specific, but anyone who is vulnerable can be signposted to them. Referrals can come from social services, GPs, district nurses etc.

Cllr Barrett: 'Drink-Wise' is an example of targeting women who are in their 50's through art classes, but funding for this has been cut. Could this initiative be subsumed under the MCCG umbrella?

It is not known if Well-Being Partnership funds may be withdrawn in 2018. Buckfastleigh has modest funding. The Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Hospital League of Friends have donated £7,000 to be split 50:50 between Buckfastleigh and Ashburton and it is expected that both communities will expand in the same way as Bovey.

It was highlighted that the Community Development Fund and Elector Fund money must be spent within this community and that the Town Council would like to work with MCCG to promote the social well-being of the young and elderly in the town.

David Ridson confirmed that Bovey Tracey Town Council makes an annual contribution to MCCG.

Jenny Wigram: The group also receives 'home from hospital' funding.

Decision: Cllr Stokes expressed support for the application and it was unanimously agreed to recommend to full Council to forward this application to the Elector Fund.

17/49. Apologies: Cllrs Neil Smith and Mark Maish.
No apologies were received from Cllr Fanny Jackson.

17/50. Declaration of Interests: None

17/51. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25.10.2017:

Signed and approved by Cllr Andy Stokes

17/52. Community Development Fund Applications Update and Application to the Elector Fund:

The Chair explained the process of applying to the Elector Fund and that both he and Cllr Barrett had recently met with representatives from Buckfastleigh Naturally Healthy and the West Devon Arts Workshops (WDAW). WDAW had submitted an application to the Community Development Fund which was initially considered at the October Finance Meeting.

Buckfastleigh Naturally Healthy have requested financial assistance from the Town Council following the withdrawal of funding.

Action: Clerk to send a Community Development Fund (CDF) application to Buckfastleigh Naturally Healthy which will then be assessed for a contribution from either the CDF or the Elector Fund. It was agreed that the Finance Committee is minded to support this application.

Decision: West Devon Arts Workshops - recommendation to December full Council to award £1,050 from the Community Development Fund.

17/53. Budget Analysis Reports 01.10.17 – 31.10.17: Noted and signed by the Chair

17/54. Bank Payments Reports and Bank Statements 01.10.17 – 31.10.17: Noted and signed by the Chair

17/55. Draft Budget 2018/19 discussion:

Cllrs Barrett and Stokes and the Clerk explained the proposed projects and suggested an increase in line with or just below inflation. It was noted that the Council Tax Support Grant will cease in two years and the Town Council will need staff capacity to deliver projects.

The Citizens Advice outreach project requires an annual financial commitment and a 2% increase to the Town Hall rent budget is proposed. The Town Hall grant is reduced to reflect the increase in bookings and no further information has been received regarding the proposal from Teignbridge District Council to part-fund a town centre manager.

Action: Clerk to make further revisions to the budget for resolution at the Town Council scheduled for 13th December 2017.

17/56. Community Infrastructure Levy payment:

The Clerk advised that the receipt and proposed use of the Community Infrastructure Levy payment must be published by 31st December 2017 on the Town Council website.

Decision: Recommendation to December full Council to use the £2,327.45 payment to meet the budget deficit in funding solar panels for the Town Hall.

17/57. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.