

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance Committee** meeting held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Councillors:- Andy Stokes (Chair), Pam Barrett, Huw Cox, Greg Porter, Dan Simpson and Judith Hart (Town Clerk/RFO).

**In attendance:** One member of the public

## **Part I (Open to the Public)**

**18/28. Questions raised by the Public:** None

**18/29. Apologies:** Cllr Linus McCloskey

Cllr Mark Maish did not attend.

**18/30. Declaration of Interests:** Cllr Huw Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest re Agenda Item No. 7) Smaller Grant Applications Minute No. 18/34 iii) and vii), Cllrs Pam Barrett and Dan Simpson re Agenda Item No. 7) Smaller Grant Applications Minute No. 18/34 vii)

**18/31. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23.05.2018:**

Signed and approved by Cllr Andy Stokes

**18/32. Budget Analysis Report 01.05.18 – 31.05.18:** Noted

**18/33. Bank Payments Report and Bank Statement 01.05.18 – 31.05.18:** Noted

**18/34: Smaller Grant Applications:**

The following smaller grant applications were approved:

- i) **Buckfastleigh Cricket Club** – £250
- ii) **Friends of Buckfastleigh School** - £250
- iii) **Patchwork Quilt Challenge** - £150
- iv) **South Devon Railway Road Services (Vintage Bus)** - £300
- v) **Good Old Days** - £250
- vi) **Buckfastleigh Pantomime Group** – awarded £250 to be paid in lieu of room hire for the next Christmas show.
- vii) **Orchard Millennium Green/Victoria Park Swimming Pool/The Valiant Soldier and Heritage Centre** (joint application) - £769.20 including VAT.

Members suggested that organisations should continue to be encouraged to attend free community training sessions, when available, and be offered the opportunity to meet informally with the Council or attend a Finance meeting to discuss their grant applications.

**18/35. Proposal to fund a programme of Community Learning:**

Members agreed that the community training programme should be re-visited. There is a need for this within the community and topics should include charity and trustee training, grant

writing skills, business projects, new data protection regulations, IT, social media skills, child protection policies and basic first aid training.

Cllr Pam Barrett advised that Learning Devon provides training for adults in maths and English GCSE and are keen to meet our need. Training in group facilitation for councillors and local groups may also be available. Learning Devon might be able to provide some of this and may have some funding, but it is possible that the Town Council would have to meet the costs.

There is already an agreement to support community training within the Council budget. Groups need to be supported and upskilled to enable them to apply to larger funding pots such as Sport England but must be able to demonstrate that adequate policies are in place. Unfortunately, these groups may fold without sustainable funding.

Community groups are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers. The structure of society has changed with people retiring later and not having the time to volunteer. The suggestion is to recommend that £3,000 from the Community Development Fund is ring-fenced for community training.

A member of the public commented that people need to understand what they are asking for when submitting a grant application.

**Decision:** Funding for community training will be raised as a proposal at the July participatory budget meeting with a recommendation to ring-fence £3,000 from the Community Development Fund for this purpose.

**18/36. Correspondence:** None

**18/26. Items requiring Urgent Attention:**

The Internal Audit Report was noted and the Clerk was thanked for her work on the end of year accounts and Annual Return.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.