

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee Meeting** held on **Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors Pam Barrett (Acting Chair), Ron Fox, Dan Simpson and Neil Smith

In attendance: Cllr Huw Cox, Sheila Phillips (William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust - WPCST), Janet Parrott (Valiant Soldier - VA), John Brodribb (South Devon Railway - SDR), Wendy Hall (Buckfast Abbey), Maureen Tuffnell and Ann Werry (Orchard Millennium Green Trust - OMG),

18/01. Questions from the public: None

18/02. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Simon Rines and Greg Porter, John. Bailey (Buckfastleigh Football Club), Peter Edwards and Val Browning (Valiant Soldier)

18/03. Declarations of interest: None

18/04. To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Tourism, Recreational and Economic Development Committee held on Tuesday 4th April 2017, 3rd July 2017, 10th October 2017 and 16th January 2018:

Signed and approved by Cllr Pam Barrett

18/05. Chair to invite comments from local attractions, organisations and members of the Buckfastleigh Chamber of Trade represented at this meeting:

Representatives of the Orchard Millennium Green reported that 30 people had attended their Easter opening. The Fun Day and Duck Race will be held on 24th June and Apple Day on 7th October. They will also have a stall at Lamb Pie Day.

Sheila Phillips: *The Caves will open on 18th April and close in the second week of September. They have several residential bookings and 21 guided walks already confirmed for the summer season. A new archaeological dig is due to place during the summer in a bone cave that has not been entered in 30 years. A busy summer is anticipated including involvement with the Hello Summer activities. A new video has been made and a dedicated bat evening will be held in September.*

Janet Parrott: *The museum and visitor centre opened on 24th March. The poor weather has however, affected the number of visitors to date. The archive continues to grow, and a new lottery bid has been submitted. Some essential maintenance to the building is required, but the VS is in a good financial state. The AGM will take place in August and the World War I exhibition will end this season.*

John Brodribb: *SDR opened for the February half-term. The volunteers have had a busy Easter despite the weather. A list of events for the railway will be emailed to the Town Council to promote and SDR are happy to promote any other event or organisation too. On 1st November it will be the 60th anniversary of the last timetabled passenger service running from Totnes to Buckfastleigh and on to Ashburton. SDR would like to speak to anyone who remembers this day and invite them to ride the commemorative train. They would like to borrow or have gifted any memorabilia which relates to this event. In 2019 it will also be the 50th anniversary of the re-opening of the railway as a heritage line. Again, SDR would like to hear any memories of this occasion and collect memorabilia.*

Wendy Hall: *The Abbey will be opening its exhibition “The Monastic Way” on 5th April. Various Millennium celebration events are listed in the programme including a Garden Fair takes which will take place on 2nd June. On 13th September Buckfast Abbey will host the BBC Antiques Roadshow.*

It was suggested that the presenter and crew could arrive by a SDR train and the vintage bus.

Representatives of the Abbey have attended various trade and tourism expos, including Alexandra Palace with a view to attract more visitors. Councillors are invited to view the new exhibition in May.

Action: Clerk to send suggested dates for the visit by Councillors to Wendy in due course.

Pam Barrett: *The swimming pool will open on 26th May and will remain open until 9th September although there is some flexibility and is weather dependent. A new information leaflet and timetable is will be published shortly.*

The use of promotional portable flag signs was suggested which could be shared by the various attractions and do not require planning permission.

Maureen Tuffnell also reported that together with her husband, she conducted a guided walk for 2½ hours with the Dartmoor Society around Buckfastleigh looking at the varied history of the parish.

18/06. Review of the 2018 summer festival and visit by Colourscape:

Colourscape will be returning for the weekend of 14th and 15th July as part of the Football Club Fun Day and will again be funded by the Town Council. The Council is however, seeking accommodation for the Colourscape crew as Buckfast Abbey are unable to assist on this occasion due to their Millennium celebration.

18/07. Promotional tourism leaflet to coincide with the Buckfast Abbey 2018 Millennium celebrations, proposal to host a Town Council stall at the Abbey Garden Fair and link to the Abbey website:

It was confirmed that Cllr Simon Rines is currently working on the promotional leaflet and that further details will be provided at the April Town Council meeting

18/08. Proposal to screen “The Hound of the Baskervilles” at Holy Trinity Church:

The proposed screening has been provisionally scheduled for August. Item deferred to the April Town Council meeting.

18/09. Provision of youth services and activity programme update:

The 2018 programme of holiday and after school activities for young people has already started with the Enchanted Easter event held on Good Friday in the Town Hall which was well attended. A second Easter holiday event will take place at the youth club. Free DJ workshops have been offered at the Football Club and free weekly parkour sessions will run from 13th April to 10th June.

A new summer activities programme is being developed which will be more varied than 2017. A leaflet drop will be arranged to ensure that as many parents and young people are aware of what will be available. The Council have also teamed up with Play Torbay to run some day trips and youth outreach work is currently under discussion.

18/10. Review of the new Community Awards initiative to be launched at the Heart of Buckfastleigh event on 16th June 2018:

The plan is to showcase groups and organisations in the Main Hall of the Town Hall. There are four award categories and requests for nominations have been launched. The Community Champion award will be by public vote with an awards ceremony taking place on the day. There has been a suggestion to have a Chamber of Trade voucher as part of the awards presentation.

18/11. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee: No items

18/12. Correspondence: None

18/13. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

Cllr Pam Barrett reported that the Bike Bus will run from the town once a month at a cost of £5 per person. Up to 16 people can take part and bikes can be hired for a nominal charge if required. The first trip will go on the Drake's Trail from Tavistock on Sunday 15th April, with three further trips already organised for 6th May, 10th June and 8th July.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm