

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee Meeting** held on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WAS NOT QUORATE AND ANY DECISION FROM THIS MEETING IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING.**

**Present:** Councillors Simon Rines (Chair), Huw Cox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

**In attendance:** Wendy Hall (Buckfast Abbey), Maureen Tuffnell and Ann Werry (Orchard Millennium Green Trust - OMG),

**18/14. Questions from the public:** Maureen Tuffnell expressed concern about the locations and visibility of the new advertising flags for the swimming pool, Valiant Soldier and the OMG.

**18/15. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Dan Simpson, Ron Fox, Pam Barrett, Greg Porter, Neil Smith and John Bailey (Buckfastleigh Football Club)

**18/16. Declarations of interest:** None

**18/17. To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Tourism, Recreational and Economic Development Committee held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018:**

Minutes to the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 to be deferred until the next quorate meeting.

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

Maureen Tuffnell and Ann Werry have been preparing for the Britain in Bloom competition. The OMG have provided colourful flags along Fore Street and around the OMG but would like to extend this to other properties in that area. It was suggested that they contact individual property owners.

*Correction to the above minute recorded at the Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 – Mr John and Mrs Maureen Tuffnell purchased the above flags from their own funds on behalf of the Orchard Millennium Green Trust.*

The OMG Apple Day will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October which will include some stalls. A new Nature Board will be created by Buckfastleigh Primary School children as part of a Hello Summer art activity during the school summer holiday. Committee members have been pleased to welcome children to the green during a school visit, be part of the bat swim held at the pool and have facilitated several children's parties.

Wendy Hall: *The Buckfast Abbey Millennium Year continues with many celebrations. A Festival of Music was held in April and the Garden Fair in early June welcomed 5,000 visitors in a single day.*

*An evening with Terry Waite was also held in June and July commenced with a Story Telling Festival for pre-organised school trips during the week and weekend days for families.*

*Members of the community were invited to the Feast of St. Benedict on 11<sup>th</sup> July and a Food Festival will also be held this month.*

*A bell ringing festival will take place in August to commemorate the centenary of World War I followed by the Feast of the Dedication of Buckfast Abbey later in the month. The Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Rotary Club will also be hosting their annual ArtEx exhibition from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August.*

**18/19. To review proposals from the Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018 Report including the creation of a town square and enhancement of the area below the A38 flyover:**

The consultants who were commissioned by the Town Council to undertake this report have suggested the creation a town square within the area of the Mardle Way car park adjacent to Chapel Street. This could be used for community events and gatherings and would be a better location for the farmers market. The Council would be pleased to receive the views of residents regarding this proposal. There are funding sources for town enhancement projects and this would not have to be volunteer led. There is also the suggestion to look at the area below the A38 flyover at the entrance to South Devon Railway which is an eyesore and could be developed to be a more attractive and inclusive site e.g. painting murals on the pillars. A masterplan would however, be required.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate the Green Infrastructure Strategy report to the organisations who are invited to attend this committee.

**18/20. Distribution of promotional tourism leaflet**

The Chair confirmed that the new promotional leaflet has been distributed to a wide variety of locations and has been well received. With the wider use of the internet it was agreed that there is no longer the demand for more comprehensive literature to be produced such as a town guide.

**18/21. Proposals for the use of 4 telephone kiosks adopted by the Town Council:**

Ideas are sought for the use of the kiosks adopted by the Town Council. One proposal has been to send a kiosk to Henri-Fontaine, the twinning town to Buckfastleigh and Scoriton.

Maureen Tuffnell suggested using one as a planter if it is turned on one side with the door open. Other suggestions have included a space for public art and the community defibrillator.

**Action:** To request new and innovative ideas from residents.

**18/22. ‘Colourscape’ and Summer Festival 2018 update by the Chair:**

Cllr Simon Rines reported that visitors to the ‘Colourscape’ art installation were a little lower than 2017, but it was still successful, and this may have been due to the heat.

‘Colourscape’ would like to return to Buckfastleigh. Buckfast Abbey and South Devon Railway have been suggested as alternative venues. It was agreed that it is not a stand-alone attraction for Buckfastleigh and needs to be run as part of another significant event.

It would be helpful if the organisations within the town plan events in cooperation with each other to avoid a clash of dates.

**18/23. BBC Antiques Roadshow at Buckfast Abbey:**

Wendy Hall: *The Roadshow will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. A team of 45 to 50 volunteer stewards are needed to help with this event at various places on site for the day. They*

*need to be 18 years with no known medical reasons why they cannot safely undertake the day's duties.*

**Action:** It was agreed that the Town Council could help to advertise for volunteers on social media.

**18/24. Provision of youth services and activity programme update:**

The Clerk advised that the Hello Summer activity brochure will shortly be available, and all activities are listed on the Town Council website events page. A wider range of workshops, outings and activities have been arranged for the school summer holiday all funded by the Town Council and an Awards for All Grant received in 2017.

Cllr Pam Barrett and the Clerk have also met with representatives from Young Devon to explore how a youth outreach service could be tailored to meet some of the needs of Buckfastleigh. A range of proposals have been initially agreed to develop a pilot project within the parish to address the gaps left by the withdrawal of funding by Devon County Council.

**18/25. Review of volunteer recruitment and project commitments:**

The Council would like to engage more residents and encourage them to participate and contribute ideas. The Community Workshop will now be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Organisations need to show that it can be rewarding and fun to volunteer without attending meetings or undertaking administrative tasks. An incentive such as training while you volunteer, or a certificate scheme could be developed. Organisations could use the Town Council's Facebook and/or community news sheet to advertise what they need, describing specific tasks such as making refreshments or gardening, and this could be linked to whoever may be interested.

The Chair expressed concern regarding the lack of communication with the Railway concerning projects where they may wish to contribute or participate.

**18/26. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee.**

Already covered under the above items.

**18/27. Items requiring Urgent Attention:** None

Meeting closed at 8.40pm