

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development Committee Meeting** held on **Monday 3rd July 2017 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), Pam Barrett, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk)

In attendance: Matthew McLeod (Town Ranger) and Greg Newman of Gomaps.

17/13. Questions from the public:

Greg Newman was introduced to the meeting and the proposal for pocket size maps to direct visitors around the parish and tourist attractions was discussed. Each map could focus on a particular field of interest such as history, businesses, outdoor activities etc.

Members agreed that the National Park information posts around the town are now looking dated and dreary and it would be useful to have new boards containing illustrated maps. The telephone boxes recently adopted by the Town Council could, if in the right locations, also be used as information points.

It is important that visitors are encouraged to walk into the town after a visit to the railway or Otter Sanctuary and the Council has been looking at a project to enhance the area between the railway and the town centre. There is also the Sherlock Holmes connection that could be highlighted to attract more tourism.

The decision to design and produce a set of maps would need to be agreed at full Council together with the cost, licensing implications and whether the maps should be available for free and include advertising from local businesses. The suggestion to create a treasure hunt map or pack was also considered as another option to research further.

Action: Greg Newman to look at drafting a new visitor map with the possibility of a treasure hunt map being commissioned at a later date.

The role of the new Town Ranger was discussed and it was agreed that communicating with residents, visibility and reporting issues to other authorities will be a key part of the job. Matthew suggested that he could be out in the community at a set time every week to engage with the public and that it may be useful to have his own Facebook page. It is important that the Ranger also involves volunteers for eg. to arrange a community litter picking day and look at the problems of dog fouling.

17/14. Apologies: Councillors Dan Simpson, Greg Porter, Fanny Jackson and Neil Smith
Ann Werry (Orchard Millennium Green Trust - OMG), Maureen Tuffnell (OMG and W.I.)
Sheila Phillips (William Pengelly Cave Studies Trust – WPCST), John Brodribb (Museum Curator, South Devon Railway – SDR), Geoff Pring (Warden & Site Administrator, Buckfast Abbey) and John Bailey (Chairman of Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club - BRFC), David Field (Buckfast Butterfly Farm & Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary)

17/15. Declarations of Interest: None

17/16. To approve and sign as correct the Minutes of the Tourism and Recreational Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2017.

Minutes to the meeting held on 4th April 2017 to be deferred and signed at the October meeting.

17/17. Chair to invite comments from the local attractions and members of the Buckfastleigh Chamber of Trade represented at this meeting:

No representatives present, item deferred until the next meeting.

17/18. To discuss the planning, management and communications issues for projects which are within the remit of this committee:

No matters to discuss at this meeting.

17/19. “Hello summer” 2017 – Free fun things for young people to do during the school holidays – discussion and update:

£3,000 has been allocated by the Town Council for the free youth activities programme. A schedule of activities from 10.00am to 12 noon every day during the school summer holidays has now been arranged and the Council has commissioned a local organiser to undertake the work.

The Council has also successfully secured some grant funding which will enable this project to be delivered until summer 2018.

17/20. To discuss and plan the new grant funding award for the youth activities programme:

Cllr Pam Barrett was pleased to announce that a grant for £9980 had been conditionally approved and will need to be spent within 12 months of receipt. The Council will then look at submitting a Children in Need bid to produce a youth strategy and enable outreach work, but this project needs to be sustainable and would require the recruitment of an organiser who could scope up a project brief and develop a youth programme.

Action: To discuss the development of a youth programme as an agenda item at the July Town Council meeting.

17/21. Buckfastleigh Festival of Sports 2017 update:

Cllr Simon Rines: The sports festival will be held over the weekend of 15th and 16th July and taster sessions for at least 20 sports have been arranged. Colourscape will also be visiting for the duration of the weekend which is the first time in 8 years that this exciting experience has visited the South West.

It is important that the festival is also used as an opportunity to collect data to assess what sports people would like to have in the town and to encourage all ages from all the community to participate, but this can only be successfully achieved if more volunteers are recruited.

17/22. Correspondence: None

17/23. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 9.25pm