

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance Committee** meeting held in the Council Chamber on **Wednesday 26th September 2018 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Councillors:- Pam Barrett (Acting Chair), Janet Jones, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk/RFO).

Due to unforeseen circumstances for the purpose of this meeting, Councillors Janet Jones, Pamela Forbes and Ron Fox were co-opted onto the Finance Committee to transact the business specified in the agenda.

Part I (Open to the Public)

18/38. Questions raised by the Public: None

18/39. Apologies: Cllrs Andy Stokes, Huw Cox, Linus McCloskey, Greg Porter and Dan Simpson

Cllr Mark Maish did not attend.

18/40. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Pam Barrett declared a non-pecuniary interest re Agenda Item No. 9) Perennial Grant Applications Minute No. 18/46 Buckfastleigh Town Hall and Institute (BTH&I) and Victoria Park. Cllr Barrett's written request for dispensation to speak on matters relating to both applications was approved by the Town Clerk five working days prior to this meeting. Cllrs Janet Jones, Pamela Forbes and Ron Fox declared a non-pecuniary interest re Agenda Item No. 9) with respect to BTH&I, Cllr Ron Fox regarding Victoria Park and Cllr Janet Jones re Agenda Item No. 8) Larger Grant Applications Minute No. 18/45 St. Luke's PCC - Holy Trinity Church grass cutting.

18/41. To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27.06.2018:

Signed and approved by Cllr Pam Barrett

18/42. Budget Analysis Reports 01.06.18 – 30.06.18, 01.07.18 – 31.07.18 and 01.08.18 – 31.08.18: Noted

18/43. Bank Payments Reports and Bank Statements 01.06.18 – 30.06.18, 01.07.18 – 31.07.18 and 01.08.18 – 31.08.18: Noted

18/44. Smaller Grant Applications:

The following smaller grant applications were approved within the spending limits of this meeting:

- i) **South West Wool Works** – £300
- ii) **Skylarker** (a new initiative to support a participatory arts project in Buckfastleigh Primary School) - £500
- iii) **The Friendship Group** - £250

18/45. Larger Grant Application:

Application received from St. Luke's PCC on behalf of **Holy Trinity Church** burial ground for £1,800.00 towards the annual cost of grass cutting for 2018/19.

The Town Council has awarded an annual grant towards the cost of grass cutting at Holy Trinity churchyard for many years and recognises the importance of supporting this community facility however, it is noted that the Church and Parish Lands of Buckfastleigh (CPLB also known as the FEOFEES) have sufficient funds to meet this cost. The CPLB is a charitable trust which supports the maintenance of St. Luke's Parish Church, Holy Trinity and the churchyard.

Cllr Janet Jones explained that the CPLB does contribute towards the cost of repairs and maintenance at Holy Trinity, but historically there has been the view that the Town Council should provide financial support to this facility as it is a burial ground for the whole parish.

Members agreed that the Town Council would not normally award grant funding to an organisation that has adequate funds, but this is an exceptional case. The Council however, is now facing a significant loss in income for 2019/20 due to the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant by government and the end of grant funding towards the Hello Summer programme. The new budget will need to be adjusted accordingly so that the services we provide to the community do not suffer.

Action: Clerk to send a letter to St. Luke's PCC requesting further information prior to further discussion and resolution at the October Town Council meeting. Can alternative sources of funding be used, is there a community reason to prevent this and how can the CPLB assist in this matter? Representatives of the PCC to be invited to this meeting.

18/46. Perennial Grant Applications:

- i) **Buckfastleigh Town Hall and Institute** – application for an annual contribution of £16,000 plus inflation for a period of up to four years subject to an annual review by the Town Council.

Members continue to support this important community facility and are aware that repairs, maintenance and health and safety compliance are ongoing and will require continued investment and commitment.

Decision: Recommendation to the October full Council meeting to include an annual contribution (subject to review) of £16,000 plus inflation in the budget.

- ii) **Victoria Park** – application for an annual contribution of £20,000 plus inflation for a period of up to four years subject to an annual review by the Town Council.

The Victoria Park trustees have boosted income through their fund-raising efforts and together with income generated through the swimming pool and grants, it is predicted that £20,000 is needed to meet the deficit for 2019/20. The park and pool are essential and well used community facilities, but like the Town Hall are not sustainable without public funding support.

Decision: Recommendation to the October Town Council meeting to include an annual contribution (subject to review) of £20,000 plus inflation in the budget.

18/47. Correspondence: None

18/48. Items requiring Urgent Attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.