

# BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Paul Georghiades (Chair), Huw Cox, and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

**Press:** None

**In attendance:** Cllr Emma Fitzpatrick

**23/08. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs John Bailey and Ron Fox

**23/09. Councillors invited to declare any interests:** None

To enable this meeting to be quorate and to approve and sign the April minutes, Cllr Emma Fitzpatrick was co-opted for the purpose of this meeting only.

**23/10. To approve and sign the minutes from the Finance Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023:**

Minutes signed by Cllr Georghiades.

**23/11. Initial discussion following receipt of two larger grant applications with recommendations to full Council:**

**i) Friends of Buckfastleigh Library**

Name of project: Kidspace

Description: a safe space for children to read with a storyteller and planned activities including the purchase of equipment such as a reading tree.

Members raised concerns about the limited space available in the library for this project and would be pleased to hear what the Friends group hope to achieve. Have three quotes been sought for the equipment selected to ensure best value? It was agreed that adding additional equipment to an already small area would require a risk assessment too.

**Recommendation:** Members of the Finance Committee are minded to support the library and this project but would request further detail.

**ii) Buckfastleigh Bowls Club**

Description: to improve access and pavement areas for the safety of club members, supporters, and spectators

Members would like further information as to why the Bowls Club is applying for funds from the Town Council when they have substantial reserves. Are these earmarked for another purpose?

**Recommendation:** To request copies of quotes/costs for the proposed work and clarification regarding reserves

It was noted that representatives from both organisations have been invited to the June Town Council meeting to answer any questions Councillors may have.

**23/12. Review of Grants Report for 2023/24:**

The first of two payments to both Victoria Park and Buckfastleigh Town Hall were noted.

**23/13. To receive the audited End of Year Accounts and Bank Balances 2022/23 and the Internal Audit Report prior to the June Town Council Meeting:**

Noted

The Clerk confirmed that a minor difference between the reconciliation of Box 7 and Box 8 on the Annual Return has now been resolved.

**23/14. To discuss recommendations from the public:**

The new Internal Auditor concluded that he is satisfied with the accounts and internal control but identified the poor service provided by the bank and reiterated the Town Council's duty of care to its Councillors and employees regarding any issues of bullying, intimidation, or harassment.

**Action:** Clerk to forward relevant personnel policies to Cllr Fitzpatrick to review.

**23/15. Questions and comments from the public:** No public in attendance.

**23/16. Items requiring urgent attention:** None

Meeting closed at 7.47 pm.