

BUCKFASTLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Paul Georghiades (Chair), John Bailey, Steven Burch, Ron Fox and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr Sue Clarke

Press: None

25/01. Apologies for absence: None

25/02. Councillors invited to declare any interests: Cllr Bailey declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 4 as the Chair of the Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club

25/03. To approve and sign the minutes from the Finance Committee held on 13th November 2024:

Minutes by signed by Cllr Georghiades

25/04. Initial discussion following receipt of two larger grant applications with recommendations to full Council:

Buckfastleigh Community Development Trust (The Bungalow Youth Project) – Dungeons and Dragons Group – It was noted that the Town Council awarded two smaller grants of £500 each in 2024/25 to this group. The total cost of the project for 2025/26 is £9,477.20 and The Bungalow will meet £4,537.20 of this. The Town Council has been asked to fund the remaining £4,940.00 which will cover the cost of hiring a specialist practitioner for two groups for 38 sessions each during the academic year.

Councillors acknowledge that the very popular Dungeons and Dragons role playing and storytelling game reaches a target audience which can help improve mental health, social isolation and reduce levels of stress and anxiety which is different to mainstream sporting activities but there is to date no official support or recognition from the NHS.

Councillors agreed that if this club continues this application could be determined as a perennial grant and questioned how The Bungalow calculated their own contribution and how future funding will be met and from who?

It is understood that the club currently facilitates 30 children as regular attendees and that there is a waiting list. Members recognise the benefits of this activity to children in Buckfastleigh but agreed that the Town Council cannot commit to long term funding when there is so much demand from so many different types of need in the town.

Existing larger sums of funding support from the Council reaches a far wider audience such as the swimming pool and Christmas lights and all applications must be deemed to be proportionate to demand. The Town Council continues to look to increase its reach to all residents but grant support must be affordable within our own budget restraints and existing commitments.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee can confirm that all supporting documents and evidence has been received and that they are minded to recommend this application to full Council

to award £1,000 as seed funding towards this project. The Town Council however cannot commit to long term funding, and it is hoped that this award will give The Bungalow the opportunity to seek other sources of funding.

Buckfastleigh Rangers Football Club – The Football Club currently supports 2 adult football teams with 70 players signed up to the club. The club is planning a third football team for under 14 years in 2026.

The club facilitates football matches, training sessions, live streaming of football matches and is available to other groups and organisations for room hire and use of the pitch for example the scouts who hold their annual sports day. There is also a licensed bar and social club which host a variety of activities such as darts matches.

The changing rooms however are no longer fit for purpose with a leaking roof. Without hygienic changing rooms the football club would have to close. The total cost to replace the roof and associated repairs is £9,063.42 + VAT. This application is for £3,500 towards the total cost.

Income is sourced from room hire, the bar, membership fees and other sources but there are no reserves and capital expenditure is met from loans including from the Chair who has contributed his own funding. There is a lack of money within the town to spend on social and sporting activities and there is no financial support for sport and leisure from Teignbridge District Council.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee can confirm that all supporting documents and evidence has been received and that they are minded to recommend this application to full Council to award £3,500.

Both recommendations to be discussed and resolved at the April full Council meeting with a decision in writing to the applicants thereafter.

25/05. To receive the draft End of Year Accounts and Bank Balances 2024/25 pending internal audit:

- Draft accounts
- Bank Reconciliation 31 March 2025
- Assets Register 2024/25
- Grant Allocations Report 2024/25

The Clerk highlighted additional expenditure incurred for 2024/25 and new items added to the Assets Register which will increase the insurance renewal for 2025/26.

The internal audit has been scheduled for Monday 28th April 2025.

25/06. Questions and comments from the public: No public in attendance.

25/07. Items requiring urgent attention: None

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.