

Joint Buckden Parish Council & Village Hall Trust liaison meeting
Wednesday 2nd August 2023 6.30pm via Zoom
Notes

Attendees: Matt Beldam, Cynthia Alers, Caroline Underwood, Sue Ashwell,

Grant progress

CA had submitted bids to two funders: Post Code Lottery East of England which has been turned down and another to the Community Ownership Levelling Up Fund which is still awaiting a decision.

Project management

Within the bid CA has outlined that funds will be required for both project management and additional internal staff capacity.

BPC confirmed the Council had approved the council's involvement in the bid. The need to go out to tender in order to meet BPC financial regulation requirements was reiterated.

Legal issues update from BPC

There had been a delay in getting the solicitors engaged by BPC to link with National Lottery but that has now happened and hopefully progress will be made soon.

Update from VHT

A new caretaker has been appointed, he might at some point be a useful additional resource for BPC to use.

Buckfest was a great success. More realistic costs for the use of the venue were applied this year as well as the full cost of the electricity used.

VHT are putting together a strategic plan for 1, 3 and 5 years. It was agreed that CU would send across the recently completed BPC Operational Plan as there might be some links across. VHT will share their plan when it is completed. **ACTION CU and MB**

Update from BPC

BPC outlined the in principle agreement for the Handymen to utilise Gardens Shed as storage and the likelihood this will be transferred on to the allotments when the development begins. BPC confirmed that a new developer for the site has been identified. Handymen have requested less hours, so BPC has outsourced bin collection to HDC. This includes the bins on VHT land.

SA explained that she was beginning work on the budget for next year and as part of that work the Clerk had identified the financial support given by BPC to VHT. It was agreed that she would share with CA information on Capital items purchased by BPC for use by residents and relating to BVHT land. **ACTION SA – see page 3**

AOB

Events – there was a discussion about future village events. CU explained there is an events group with representatives from village, businesses, The Towers and the PC.

CU will contact Peter Clark the PC rep on the group about involving a representative from the VHT. **ACTION CU**

Village Hall Grounds CA expressed her frustration that the VHT grounds, including the valley are used by all residents and yet the upkeep, including the asphalt paths, falls to the VHT. It was agreed that if and when the BPC acquires additional CIL money these types of issues can be considered, but all current BPC CIL funds are committed. It should be noted for future discussions that any CIL expenditure must comply with legal regulations

Date of next meeting
4.10.23. 6.30 via Zoom

Capital expenditure by BPC during 2022-23 and 2023-24 (ex VAT)

1. Play equipment, zip wire, bouldering wall, surf rider (disability-friendly)	£55,460
2. Quarterly Equipment inspections, external contractor - year 1 only - for zip wire and bouldering walls	£480
3. Floating island - emergency purchase, gifted to BVHT	£2,270
4. Salt bin for Valley paths	£85

TOTAL £58,295

DRAFT