

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: *COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS*

**MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Boulter (Vice-Chair), Foxton, Hornsey, Stevens, Tillett and Wilcox.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Tracy Morriss (Deputy Town Clerk)

As the Chair of the Committee sent their apologies, the Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

**CD2019/20.40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hey, Kenyon, Powell and Tyler.

**CD2019/20.41 SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitute members.

**CD2019/20.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011.

**CD2019/20.43 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS**

**HINTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** – IT Equipment & Chairs (Grant awarded November 2017, £3,000.00)

Members noted the completion form had been received and the grant had been spent in accordance with the grant award.

**CD2019/20.44 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF SECOND YEAR**

**COUNTRY PARK SUPPORTERS (CPS)** – Annual Report

Members received a presentation from the representative of this group, Phil Edwards, who explained that CPS are using promotional material to encourage more volunteers, support and funding to help maintain Belmont and Heywood Country Park that hundreds of people walk through and use. He explained that in addition to HCC's Service Level Agreement, CPS saves Herefordshire Council

£10,000 per annum for the park's maintenance as this is covered by the volunteers. Herefordshire Council provide other maintenance services such as looking after and maintaining the play area and mowing tall grasses in the wild grass areas and cutting hedges once per year. The rest of the maintenance is covered by volunteers however revenue costs rose by £200 last year.

Phil gave a brief overview of recent projects delivered in the park, including many educational projects delivered by an ex-teacher. The Boardwalk project still requires some outstanding work to be completed by BBLP so CPS are holding some payment back until works are complete.

The park is used weekly by hundreds of visitors who all benefit in various ways from using the space for exercise as well as relaxation or just commuting from a to b.

Two young people are now running the Facebook page which engages with 100 people and gains very positive comments. They regularly check the page for bad language and inappropriate comments.

CPS and Growing Local are investigating the possibility of a mini environmental centre by the car park, giving people the opportunity to learn about growing food and to get up close to nature by looking at butterflies and other small animal species.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair asked Members for questions:

- Are CPS keen for Growing Local to open such a centre at the park?  
Yes, it could have its benefits for the park and could be a great success story.
- Will you be self-sufficient at the end of the three year SLA term?  
CPS are looking at a variety of ways to bring in funding but donations are a real challenge.  
CPS are saving the local authority money by improving people's health and wellbeing from using the park.  
CPS have received just under £5,000 from donations and a group that were finishing so donated their funds to CPS.
- What fund raising activities have CPS completed? Cllr Boulter referred to her group, St Nicholas Community Association, who hold 5 events per year on the Westfaling Street Park and raise £200 plus per event. She also advised Phil to contact animal rescue who will put on a dog show for them and she would be happy to help him with organising events at the country park.  
Phil explained that CPS are liaising with Aylestone Park to see how they are fundraising for their park.
- The country park is a credit to the City and County.
- Phil also explained the group have a new treasurer who is very vigorous and is very experienced.
- It was suggested CPS contact the Community Support Scheme for additional help with volunteers?

There being no further questions the Chair thanked Phil for his time and he left the room.

Members' discussions covered the following:

- Feel like there are always excuses and barriers from CPS with regards to fund raising, want to see them helping themselves more.
- Do an excellent job of maintaining the park.
- Want to see proof of the longevity of the group and when requesting the release of the funding for the final year they provide a five year financial forecast.
- Growing Local project could be very positive way forward and a way to raise funds to support the park.
- The park is not as accessible as Westfaling Street and Castle Green, is a huge site and is a lot more open.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To release the second tranche of grant funding of £2,000.00 plus RPI at a rate of 2.6% so £52.00, totalling £2,052 for 2019, but at the final year's request, they would like to see a 5 year financial forecast.**

**The Committee took Item 7 next whilst waiting for the representative from Hinton Community Centre to arrive.**

**CD2019/20.45 UNDERWRITTEN AWARD**

**THE CORE SKATE HEREFORD – Festival Roller Rink**

Request to release award underwritten at Grants Committee on 22 July 2019 for £3,000.00.

Members received a presentation from the representative of this group, Matt Bushkes who thanked HCC for allowing them to use the gazebos and gave a slide show of pictures of the event. He explained that sadly there was torrential rain for the entire event and that it took a whole day to set the rink up and unfortunately, they were stuck in a corner. There was a scavenger hunt with a golden ticket giving the recipient a free skate at the Core - this allowed the Core to evaluate how they benefited from the festival as they could monitor numbers attending the Core as a result of attending the festival.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair asked Members for questions:

- Surprising to hear the Core are thinking about attending the festival in future years considering the risk of bad weather, poor return etc experienced this year. Why have you made this decision?  
Matt explained that the Core think that the lessons learned this year will make it profitable in future years, especially as they have had people who attended the festival using the Core since. Matt also advised members of how they would ensure things are delivered differently next time to reduce the risk.
- Why are the Core so keen to go to this event as opposed to doing something in the City?

Matt explained that there is a captive audience at the festival of 10,000 people in one concentrated area for three days, offering high exposure. Running a rink at a City festival such as the River Carnival is an option, although not necessarily worth the cost and effort seeing as they already run a dedicated rink in Hereford, however they would not be opposed to also running a roller skating rink in High Town.

- The pilot failed miserably, so isn't there a risk it will fail again next year?

Matt explained that they feel there is potential there – it was just a shame that the weather made it a total wash out in 2019. The financial outgoings would also be dramatically reduced next year as the majority of equipment purchased for this year they will not need to purchase again in future years.

There being no further questions the Chair thanked the representatives for their time and they left the room.

**The Committee then took Item 6 as the representative from Hinton Community Centre had arrived.**

#### **CD2019/20.46 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Members received presentations on the following:

##### **HINTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Request for £3,000.00 – (Tables and Trolley)

Members received a presentation from the representative of this group, Vince McNally, who gave a brief overview of the application including:

- The centre and the work that is delivered there. The centre has been a great success, with 1,300 to 1,400 visitors per week.
- It is important to replace the tables as they are very old and wobbly, therefore dangerous, and well used by the various community groups and organisations that use the centre.
- It is one of the city's business centres.
- All Members are welcome to visit the centre and look around.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair asked Members for questions, but there were none and so the Chair thanked the representative for their time and they left the room.

#### **CD2019/20.47 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF TERMS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> HEREFORD YMCA SCOUT GROUP** – Camping Equipment  
(Grant awarded February 2019, £2,197.70)

The above organisation requested to amend the spend by reducing the quality of the event shelters to enable the purchase of 3 x 6 man tents.

It was felt that this was a reasonable request and it was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Tillett and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To allow the spend to be amended to reduce the quality of the event shelters to enable the purchase of 3 x 6 man tents.**

**CD2019/20.48 RESOLUTION ON GRANTS**

Members considered and agreed the following resolutions:

**THE CORE SKATE HEREFORD**

Request for release of £3,000.00 underwritten at Grants Committee on 22 July 2019 – (Festival Roller Rink)

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Stevens and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To award £3,000.00 grant funding to honour the obligation to underwrite any loss made at Lakefest, however to note that a similar application may not be favoured in the future.**

**HINTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Request for £3,000.00 – (Tables and Trolley)

Cllrs discussed that the tables are in a worse state than the chairs, which HCC recently agreed to replace so makes sense to support the request.

It was proposed by Cllr Tillett, seconded by Cllr Wilcox and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To award £3,000.00 grant funding towards the costs as identified in the grant application for ten new tables and a trolley.**

**CD2019/20.49 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Routine meeting: TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019, 6 PM COMMITTEE ROOM

Grants meeting: MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019, 10 AM COMMITTEE ROOM

Members noted the above dates.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.37am.

Signed .....

Dated .....