

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

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

via Zoom and live streamed to Facebook

MONDAY 20 JULY 2020

The meeting took place under the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 Sections Four and Five.

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Kath Hey and Cllrs Boulter, Foxton, Hornsey, Kenyon, Oliver, Stevens, Tillett, Tyler and Wilcox.

Councillor Powell joined the meeting from 10.19 am due to technical difficulties.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Milln; Steve Kerry, Town Clerk; Tracy Morriss, Deputy Town Clerk; Becci O'Reilly, Committees, Events and Contracts Officer; Andrew Nixon, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust; Trevor Stringer, The Big Skill; Jill Hurst, The Brookfield School; Shane Miles, Climb the Tree; Esther Rudge, Herefordshire Vennture.

CD2020/21.28 The Chairman confirmed that all members of the Committee were able to take part in this meeting unless they had sent their apologies in advance.

CD2020/21.29 The Chairman confirmed that the public were able to view and hear this meeting.

CD2020/21.30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
No apologies for absence were received.

CD2020/21.31 SUBSTITUTES
There were no substitutes.

CD2020/21.32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Oliver declared a disclosable non-pecuniary interest for Item 8 The Big Skill as he is a Trustee of Saxon Hall Community Centre where the project would be sited.

CD2020/21.33 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

HEREFORDSHIRE VENNTURE – STREET PASTORS & LEAN ON ME PROJECT (Grant awarded November 2018, £3,000.00)

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

Cllr Stevens expressed his disappointed that organisations often only submit completion forms as they are applying for a further grant.

At this point, the Chair Cllr Kenyon stated he would like to vote on applications after each presentation rather than wait until all presentations had been heard.

CD2020/21.34 RE-PURPOSE GRANT AWARD

Cllrs received and considered a proposal from Growing Local is Going Local to repurpose their grant award due to the Covid-19 pandemic to now fund the Family Recipe Box Project.

It was proposed by Cllr Kenyon, seconded by Cllr Foxton and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To allow Growing Local is Going Local to repurpose their grant award to fund the Family Recipe Box Project.

CD2020/21.35 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

HEREFORD COMMUNITY LAND TRUST – COMMUNITY HOUSING SITE FINDING AND ENGAGEMENT PHASE TWO

Request for £3,000.00

This application was withdrawn before the meeting.

Members received presentations on the following:

HEREFORDSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST – THE YAZOR BROOKS’ RESTORATION PROJECT PHASE TWO

Request for £2,859.20

Members received a presentation from the representative of this group, Andrew Nixon, who gave an informative presentation of the application and work they have already been involved with on the project. This project is different to how HWT usually work as they did not identify the area develop the project but instead were approached by the community. The project which is already underway includes:

- The Yazor catchment as a whole – Yazor, Widemarsh and Eign brooks;
- Fish rescues during droughts;

- Surveys of various wildlife, including working with schools – it is one of the best monitored watercourses for riverflies;
- Coppicing, litterpicking and clearing to help prevent flooding;
- Tree planting and meadow creation;
- Input into planning applications including the Hereford Area Plan;
- Education - interpretation boards, leaflets;
- Collaboration with the Environment Agency.

This funding will cover building on the comprehensive activity to make the project more sustainable by providing training and mentoring to the community so that HWT can have less input. The eight days of training will cover bank clearance, using hand tools and power machinery, surveying and monitoring techniques and learning about the ecosystem, biodiversity and vegetation to enable good management.

At the conclusion of the presentation, comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Praise for such a succinct yet informative presentation – one of the best the Cllrs had seen.
- Happy to help promote the project where possible.
- Fully supportive of their work however, concern over countywide nature of HWT and why a grant is needed when the HWT have such a large amount of cash and investments showing in their accounts?

10.19 am – at this point, Councillor Powell joined the meeting.

Andrew wasn't able to comment on all the figures however explained that some were financial reserves and other funds were already committed to specific projects. HWT don't have enough funds to manage their own nature reserves let alone third party land.

- Praise for transformation of brooks that has already taken place, including numbers of butterflies, damselflies and fish.
- Other funding applied for including 6 years' of funding for the brooks and funds from the Tree Council. – any additional monies awarded will allow more work to be done.
- Perhaps industrial archaeology be included going forward not just wildlife.

Discussions then took place regarding whether Cllr Powell could participate in the vote as he was not there for the entire meeting however the Town Clerk advised that this is fine.

It was proposed by Cllr Hey, seconded by Cllr Boulter and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To award £2,859.20 grant funding towards the costs of providing training and mentoring workshops to the community for the restoration works of the Yazor Brooks as identified in the grant application.

THE BIG SKILL – CLAY CONNECTIONS AND SCULPTURE SCHEDULE

Request for £2,975.60

Members received verbal information from the representative of this group, Trevor Stringer, who gave a brief overview of the application. Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Amendments that had been made due to Covid-19 to the project – packs of clay had been sent out to participants and upcoming workshops would be limited on numbers with a maximum of six participants. 12 sessions pre-Christmas and 10 sessions after.
- Received £2,000.00 from the Herefordshire Community Foundation already for the project.

At this point, Cllr Oliver declared a non-pecuniary interest as he is a Trustee of Saxon Hall Community Centre where the project would be sited.

- Concern over the planned location of the sculpture in the middle of the sensory garden on the area where a small pond is currently sited and whether all concerned have been consulted with designs etc e.g. the trustees? Since the meeting, it was confirmed that the trustees were not aware of the plan and this will go to their next meeting.
- Questions over the uses of the funds if awarded – clarified only to fund materials.
- The Mayoralty should have been invited to the launch of the project in February.

It was proposed by Cllr Kenyon, seconded by Cllr Foxton and voted on with 8 for and one abstention

RESOLVED:

To award £2,975.60 grant funding towards the costs of materials to workshop and create the Standing Up For Peace Sculpture as identified in the grant application, but with the funds held until Saxon Hall Community Centre had been consulted.

THE BROOKFIELD SCHOOL – SENSORY GARDEN PATIO DOORS

Request for £2,064.00

Members received verbal information from the representative of this group, Jill Hurst who gave a brief overview of the application and the sensory garden. Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Have received fantastic support and publicity on the garden so far.
- Concerns over current ongoing redevelopment of the school and its potential impact on the garden – assurance that this part of the school will not be affected.
- Kids at the school benefit hugely from having outdoor space, as experienced at

- St. Paul's, to allow time out, quiet time, pastoral care etc.
- Why haven't Herefordshire Council been approached for funding?
When started the garden project and sent letters asking for funding, City Council were suggested as the next step.
- Concerns over why the City Council are being asked to fund a statutory service which should be provided by Herefordshire Council and whether this would open the flood gates.
It is an Academy so is not a statutory service and therefore does not come under the responsibility of Herefordshire Council – separate funding and responsible straight to Government.

It was proposed by Cllr Kenyon, seconded by Cllr Tyler and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To award £2,064.00 grant funding towards the cost of patio doors as identified in the grant application.

11.06 am – at this point a comfort break was taken and the meeting resumed at 11.17 am.

CD2020/21.36 LARGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members received presentations on the following:

CLIMB THE TREE – HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY CONTACT CENTRE

Request for £9,050.00

Members received verbal information from the representative of this group, Shane Miles who gave an overview of the organisation and application to fund the first 12 months of the centre:

- The organisation has been set up by three professionals as a CIC and not-for-profit for the betterment of children's lives.
- Launch obviously pushed back due to Covid-19 and are awaiting direction from the national body.
- Services eventually hoped to provide will include holistic therapies, speech and language, forest school, parenting workshops and advocacy services.
- Since submitting the application, Herefordshire Community Foundation have awarded £10,500.00 to fill their funding gap.

Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Concern over level of petty expenses and contingency funds shown in accounts £3,750.
Providing for eight families with children including food, drinks, nappies, wipes, toiletries etc so it soon accumulates. The contingency fund has to be able to cover rent for an alternative venue if Hinton Community Centre becomes unable to provide accommodation free of charge (agreement for 12 months FOC initially), the cost of moving the service, equipment etc.

- Concern over the fact that this is a countywide facility serving not just the city but all market towns – should those towns also be approached for funding and the request to us be reduced to perhaps third due to population numbers?
All potential future users who have declared their interest in using the service (15-20 families) when it is launched have so far all been from Hereford. The award from Herefordshire Community Foundation could be considered as the county's contribution.
- The Directors will not receive a Director's income for the first year, but from working as employees, however this will be part of the package eventually.
- Role of contact centres is hugely important and shock expressed that there is a need to apply to us for funding as it is a fundamental part of the justice system and a statutory service so should therefore be funded by them.
- It is a downfall of the justice system that a court can set conditions in family court that states that a parent can only see a child through a contact centre, but if there is no contact centre in the vicinity, the parent then doesn't see the child.
- Original contact centre at Hinton was run by a couple who became ill and therefore unable to continue the service.
- Will there be a cost to users?
The aim is to provide the service FOC to those that need it but are unable to say free to all and will attempt to get grant funding for the services and courses that the Directors are unable to provide.

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox and seconded by Cllr Stevens to recommend to Council to reduce the grant to £5,000.00 as it is a countywide service with the possibility to come back for supplementary funding later in the financial year.

This was voted on with 4 in favour and 6 against.

It was then proposed by Cllr Tillett, seconded by Cllr Foxton and voted on with 7 in favour and 3 against and

RESOLVED:

To recommend the full amount of £9,050.00 grant funding towards the first year set up costs as identified in the grant application for a child contact centre be awarded by Council on 15th September 2020.

HEREFORDSHIRE VENNTURE – STREET PASTORS & LEAN ON ME PROJECT

Request for £4,000.00

Members received verbal information from the representative of this group, Esther Rudge who gave an overview of the activities of the organisation since Covid-19. Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Street Pastors are back out on the streets in three shifts, reassuring the public, chatting, giving advice and escorting revellers to A&E – 40 conversations were recorded on Saturday night.
- Lean On Me is currently not running.
- Since November 2014, HV have received £13,000 from City Council so a Service

Level Agreement (SLA) might be more appropriate, providing secure and formalised funding. A group of the Town Clerk, Deputy, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee will be formed to discuss with HV.

- Why do you need funding when there is £144,000 in the current account?
This is allocated for work with family pastors to help vulnerable families in the County and towards the building Better Opportunities project. Some is also lottery money which is also earmarked.
- The Mayor commented that she has been out with the Street Pastors and seen their work first hand so knows the service is required and other Cllrs showed their support and admiration to HV.
- HV have applied to the Police and Crime Commissioner for £20,000 of funding but do not know the outcome of this yet.

An alternative resolution was proposed by Cllr Stevens to not award this grant as it would have to go to Council in September for approval anyway, but that work begins immediately to organise an SLA, which was seconded by Cllr Oliver.

Cllr Kenyon then commented that we can still award funding and work on an SLA simultaneously.

Cllr Wilcox then recommended that Cllr Stevens amend his proposal to approve a small grant of £3,000 now and to continue to work on an SLA so that the group are not pushed to rush an agreement through and at the same time HV receive interim funds towards their work immediately. Cllr Stevens withdrew his initial proposal and it was proposed by Cllr Wilcox, seconded by Cllr Stevens and voted on with 9 in favour and 1 abstention

RESOLVED:

To not recommend the full amount of £4,000.00 grant funding to Council but to instead award a small grant of £3,000.00 towards the costs of Street Pastors and Lean On Me Projects as identified in the grant application and to begin work on a Service Level Agreement.

CD2020/21.37 RESOLUTION ON GRANTS

Members decided (in Minute 63) to resolve grant awards after each presentation which are noted above.

CD2020/21.38 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Routine meeting: TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2020, 6 PM TBC

Grants meeting: MONDAY 02 NOVEMBER 2020, 10 AM TBC

Members noted the above dates.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.55 am

Signed

Dated