

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (GRANTS) COMMITTEE 19th July 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Stevens and Councillors Andrews, Boulter (Chair), Hey, Hornsey, Oliver, Owens and Wilcox

Attending: Steve Kerry, Town Clerk; Becci O'Reilly Administration and Events Manager

CD2021/22.27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Carwardine, Kenyon and Toynbee.

CD2021/22.28 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2021/22.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application from CLD Trust.

CD2021/22.30 GRANT COMPLETION FORM

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust City Branch Yazor Brooks' Restoration Phase Two. The completion form for the grant of £2,859.20 was noted. The grant has been sent in accordance with the award.

CD2021/22.31 GRANT AMEND TO SPEND FORMS

Councillor Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item from Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Hereford Gilbert and Sullivan Society – a letter was received from the society asking to hold the grant over to 2022 as they felt putting the show on with the uncertainty of covid would be irresponsible. This was approved, with Councillor Wilcox abstaining.

Greyhound Rugby Football Club – a verbal report had been received informing HCC that the cost of the mower had been considerably less than envisaged. The Club requested that approximately half the saving be retained to be spent on a line marker machine. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Owens and

RESOLVED That This request is declined as it had not been mentioned in the previous grant application and the Club will be asked to return the unspent portion of the grant and submit a completion form.

CD2021/22.32 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

With the agreement of the Committee the Chair varied the order of these items from that published with the agenda to accommodate members of the public who wished to make representations to the Committee.

a) Royal British Legion Centenary and Battle of Britain Commemorative Service

The Chair welcomed Bea Morris to the meeting representing the RBL. Ms Morris confirmed the application was as stated and was the result of the RBL suffering a significant loss in revenue from the difficulties of running the annual poppy appeal during Covid and the

cancellation of large scale Remembrance Day events. She very much regretted that it was necessary for the RBL to be seeking grants of this kind for promotional work which they normally covered from their revenue.

Cllr Hey recalled that during her Mayoral period she had attended RBL events and we have always supported them. It was also noted that as signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant we are committed to remembrance as part of the delivery of that covenant. It was noted that invitations to city dignitaries to attend these events did not constitute a conflict of interest. Ms Morris agreed that schools would be approached to take an interest in this work and that combining two events would help to keep costs down whilst achieving maximum impact. Having answered questions Ms Morris then left the meeting.

It was then proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and unanimously

RESOLVED To award the Royal British Legion the sum of £2,000 for their Centenary and Battle of Britain Commemorative Service to be spent in accordance with their application.

b) CLD Trust – Supporting Hereford’s Young People

It was noted that the representative of CLD had not been able to attend the meeting, Councillor Hey has some knowledge of the group and dealt with some question of fact. Having declared an interest Cllr Hey then left the meeting and took no part in the decisions.

Children are referred by health professionals and schools for counselling services. Demand has soared as Covid pressures have been severe on many families. Schools very much welcome the sessions which CLD provide in situ, which is more economical than having children taking time out from school to go to a counselling centre. The service is provided for people up to 19 years of age.

The only other service available is Children’s and Adolescent Mental Health Services run by Herefordshire Council which is completely overwhelmed by demand with long waiting lists even for the most urgent cases.

It was noted that the application was for £2,800 with a possible extra £200 for an additional young person to be assisted. It was however noted that not all clients can be completely supported in a fixed number of session so it would be better if the Committee wanted to give the full grant of £3,000 to allow the Trust to decide how best to use the extra £200.

It was then proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED To award CLD Trust a grant of £3,000 for their project Supporting Hereford’s Young People in accordance with their application.

c) Hereford Bowling Club - Refurbishment, Marketing and Equipment for Juniors

Suzanne Davis and Pat Farmer represented the Club and presented the application. The application is for two full sets of woods in a size suitable for juniors and for the costs of marketing the sport to a younger clientele. At present the Club, like most bowling clubs, is

predominantly supported by retired people, although one young person has joined through their mentoring scheme. The discipline, balance, teamwork and focus required for bowling are important elements in social and physical development, and the experience of working in a mixed team and relating to older people is unique to bowling. Bowls is a low demand sport so can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. The Club has a mentoring scheme to bring young people into the sport, and is keen to expand this. It is based on the green in Hereford and is one of the oldest in the country, if not the oldest.

In discussion, members noted that the Club is a hidden jewel in the city and an important part of our sporting history. Youngsters can play for fun and in friendly competitions, but the Club has the capacity to develop people for national competitions if they reach that standard. Schools will be made aware of this opportunity and the Club hopes to run sessions for school parties to familiarise themselves with the game. However, the need for smaller kit for smaller hands does limit numbers somewhat. The target group for this initiative is 11+ for which a single smaller size should be adequate. There is a market for second hand woods for people who come into the sport and want to carry on as adults, a good set new costs about £200 with a proper bag.

The representatives then left the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED To award Hereford Bowling Club a grant of £1,498 to support their project for refurbishment, marketing and equipment for juniors in accordance with their application.

d) Herefordshire Wildlife Trust City Branch – Yazor Brooks’ Restoration Project – Phase Three

Nic Howes and Emil Morfett attended to present the application and to refer to an email sent in support. The purpose of this allocation is to seek funding for the ongoing maintenance of the banks, to allow natural plants sufficient light and space to flourish and to prevent much of the clearance being overwhelmed by uncontrolled growth. Brush cutters and strimmers are required. Both to preserve and enhance biodiversity and to enable the public to see the brook and the results of work done already it is important to have cleared some areas. Volunteers need to be trained to use the brush cutters safely and this is part of the application.

In discussion it was noted that the work done to improve and restore the brook has been extremely impressive. There is no anticipated call for the City’s resources to be deployed after this grant, it is not an annual application. Wye Valley NHS will contribute to the cost of work near the hospital and the Environment Agency have helped with the hire of chippers and the installation of interpretation boards so people understand the importance of what they are seeing. It was also noted that the grant completion form for last year’s grant is on the agenda for this meeting and had been accepted. It was noted that at a time when gardeners are being asked not to cut lawns etc to support biodiversity it is necessary for some management of the banks of the brook to prevent them from becoming over-grown and obstructed as they were before the restoration project got started. This creates a wildlife corridor into the City and supports both resident and migratory birds and fish by providing a sustainable food supply of riverine invertebrates. Moving wire and posts in the Widemarsh area had been of great benefit.

Any new trees planted will be registered as part of the Queen's Canopy project to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

Finally, maintaining the brook properly contributes to flood resilience by avoiding the backing up and spread of blocked water.

Messrs Howes and Morfett then left the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Hey and unanimously

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,827.98 be awarded to the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust City Branch to support Phase Three of the Yazor Brooks' restoration project in accordance with the application.

e) Royal National College for the Blind – New Lawnmower

There was no representative available from the College. Members considered the application as written and confirmed that the liability for some mowing in Campbell Gardens relates to two small areas of preserved woodland which are of scientific interest and were agreed as part of the transfer of land to a developer for the surrounding estate would be maintained by the College. It was noted that 2020 has been a disastrous year for RNC fundraising and they urgently need some assistance. It was noted that the College had sought quotes for the lawnmower but had only included one suggestion in their bid. They would be asked to forward evidence of their price testing before the grant could be released.

It was then proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be awarded to the Royal National College for the Blind towards the purchase of a lawnmower in accordance with the application, provided the College furnish the Clerk with some evidence of their price testing in addition to the quote included with the application.

f) Rotherwas Together Community Group – The Life of A Rotherwas Munitions Worker

Nicola Goodwin and her colleague Angela Williams who was dressed as a munitions worker presented the application. It was noted that the munitions workers had played a large part in shaping the city, especially south of the river and that the site of the factories is now the home of much of Herefordshire Council, Hoople, BBLP and NMiTE. Work was carried out in appalling conditions and was very dangerous even without the added hazard of the air raid, which was not, contrary to local myth, an accident, it was a targeted attempt to destroy an important war industry. Bringing in local people to research personal histories of workers would give life to the narrative, and was a follow up to the important work done to find surviving workers and present them with medals. Two former mayors recalled how moving they had found those award ceremonies and how appreciative the surviving "canary girls" from the factory were. Recognition had come very late, and it was important for this vital part of the history of the county not to be forgotten. The three themes of the project will be to get content onto Wikipedia and Wikimedia, to publish "black out poetry" and to run dress making groups producing the historic costumes for schools, and local historians.

Members congratulated Nicola and Angela on a superb presentation and noted that the group had few resources outside this grant to support the project. It was noted that work on the memorial which names workers is far from complete and that there is a possibility that the Rotherwas Angel might be mounted near the foot bridge and be added to the City Sculpture Trail. The hunt for long lost relatives and children of workers, who can now seek posthumous medals for their relatives from either world war, goes on.

The representatives then left the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hey and

RESOLVED To award the Rotherwas Together Community Group a grant of £3,000 to support the Life of A munitions Worker project in accordance with the application.

CD2022/22.33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the timing for this meeting had originally been set for 5 pm but that the length of the agenda and the prospect of a very long meeting had persuaded the Chair to agree to restore the 10 am start which is usual for grant meetings.

After consideration of the possibility of holding grant meetings in the evening, and the impact on members, staff and representatives attending outside school hours, it was proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED To continue to hold grant meetings on Monday mornings and routine meetings on Tuesday evenings, with the possibility of one or two grant items being taken to evening meetings if necessary because of urgency.

The dates for the next meetings were therefore agreed as

21st September 2021 at 6 pm for routine items and business plan

1st November at 10 am for grants items

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm

Signed

Date