

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS MEETING 3 and 10 October 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

This meeting was held over two sessions, the original date having been postponed due to the period of official mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Present 3 October 2022 10am

Councillors Sue Boulter (Chair), Paul Stevens, Cat Hornsey, Rob Owens, Kath Hey (part), Brian Wilcox (part), Ange Tyler, Aubrey Oliver (part) and Jeremy Milln (non-member attending for one item).

In attendance Steve Kerry - Town Clerk, Dave Tristram - External Funding and Community Support Officer (EFCSO).

CD2022/23.27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillors Jacqui Carwardine and Rob Williams.

CD2022/23.28 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2022/23.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hornsey made two non-pecuniary declarations regarding grant applications from React and Fit and Fed, both of which are attended by her children.

Councillor Tyler made a non-pecuniary declaration in respect of the grant application from Yeleni as she has a close relationship with the applicants.

Councillor Oliver joined the meeting at this point.

CD2022/23.30 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

The EFCSO reported that satisfactory forms had been received from Hereford Bowling Club and the Courtyard Theatre and that these forms had been available for inspection by members of the Committee. There were no questions and members formally noted receipt of the forms.

CD2022/23.31 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

A) HEREFORD BOWLING CLUB – FLAT ROOF REFURBISHMENT (Councillor Hey left at this point)

The Chair welcomed Kevin and Trevor and invited them to present their application. The Club thanked the Committee for the grant last year for youth promotion and reported on progress with that initiative. This year they were seeking funding for replacement of the flat roof on the club house. Quotes had been obtained and a club member had offered to provide the labour free which had substantially reduced the cost to the present figure of £10,500. The Club also described the constraints on their site especially parking, the useful offer of some free parking space from Tesco, but also the disappointment that offers of free membership for a year at Tesco and Philip Morris staff had not been taken up. In addition to bowling, the club provides indoor skittles and opens its bar on Saturdays as a way of increasing income. Full membership is £80 pa, with an introductory novice membership of £50 pa.

In answers to questions from members the following additional information was noted.

There are several roof leaks and a full replacement of the tired roof is the only practicable solution. The Club does retain a fund within its budget for running repairs and maintenance, but this is outside the scope of that. The Club are working closely with the Planning Authority regarding the listed status of the club house but would not necessarily accept every observation from the Civic Society if the Planning Officer does not press the point. Once the roof is repaired and a second scheme to replace rotting window frames in suitable new timber is complete the building should have a long life and remain useful.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked the representatives for attending and they left the meeting. Councillor Milln indicated that this was the item he had wanted to discuss and also left the meeting.

B) CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH – REVIVE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Chair welcomed Lesley, Diane and Malcolm to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The café is now a Talk Community hub and Lesley works there having retired as a teacher of food technology. Diane started running Safe Space for people with mental health issues and is a qualified counsellor. Malcolm is a veteran who has used the service. In addition to describing the services as set out in the application Diane referred to the need to expand to meet a growing area of need. Malcom shared his personal experience. As a soldier he served in the Falklands where he sustained a back injury which was severe enough to cause a medical discharge six months later. For years he struggled with pain and took increasing levels of painkillers to cope. By 2010 he was in a very dark place, having become isolated and withdrawn and was rapidly becoming a recluse. He saw a community psychiatric nurse who suggested the Art Club at Revive and this was very effective in helping him turn things round. He is now a volunteer at the Waterworks Museum and he feels that the café and its Art Club probably prevented him from becoming suicidal. (The Clerk asked for Malcolm's agreement to include these personal details in public minutes, which he gave.)

In answers to questions from members the following additional information was noted.

There is no other provision of this kind in the City and the EFCSO will be assisting the group with applications to Awards for All. The Forces Self-help Group within the café is important and effective but the café is now reaching beyond the veteran community and needs to expand the counselling and support it offers. The Community Hub funding was for start-up and is not ongoing. (Councillor Hey returned to the meeting at this point.) There may be some Warm Spaces funding from Herefordshire Council that the group could tap into. Although the group encourages self-help and independence through the camaraderie of the group, there is a facility for one to one work as some of the issues people need to raise are intensely personal. Having recovered from his dark place, Malcolm is now not only an attender but a regular and valued contributor to the group.

The Chair thanked the representatives for attending, and Malcolm for being so open about his experiences, and they left the meeting.

C) HEREFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – EURO 2022 LEGACY

The Chair welcomed Dan to the meeting and invited him to present his application. He is the Development Manager for the County FA, which is the local governing body for football. There are around 6,000 players in the county with over 100 match officials. Previous projects have included dementia awareness, forces veterans' clubs, Wyese Police and a thank you trophy for NHS and SSAFA. This grant application is based on capturing some legacy from the success of the England Women's Football Team and to capture the rapidly rising enthusiasm for football among girls and women. The purpose is to provide access to training for women to become coaches working mainly, but not exclusively, in female clubs. The club will provide free access to sessions at schools with one off tournaments to encourage participation in clubs. School sessions can be in games lessons, at lunch time or after school so there is great flexibility in the offer.

In answer to questions the following additional information was noted.

The work done by the group supporting Tupsley Girls FC has been very effective and their facilities are excellent. The facilities are shared beyond football, with the Men's Mental Health Group among the community groups using the club house. The FA national define the coaching courses so they are validated but they are able to slightly tailor them to respond to the observations they collect from participants. Non players are welcome to train as coaches or match officials. The FA has cut funding to this grass roots level of development in the game, which many involved and members of the Committee feel is outrageous, but it is not something that is going to change any time soon.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

D) WYE VALLEY RUNNERS – 40TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

The Chair welcomed Paddy and a colleague to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The application is to fund a membership drive as part of their fortieth anniversary. The programme aims for "Couch to 5km" as an objective to encourage running for health, fitness, and the social benefits of bringing people together in a shared activity. It was noted that whilst anyone can run anywhere at any time, the experience of being followed at night means many people much prefer to run in a group. They want to reach into communities that don't have a high level of engagement and members, and venues south of the river would be especially welcomed.

In answers to questions the following additional points were noted.

Day time sessions for retired people or those not in work could be arranged if there were sufficient numbers for it to be worthwhile. The runs are well organised with checking in and checking out so no stragglers are left behind and any in difficulties can be quickly helped. Most runners aim for 5km as a target but there are some working towards 10km and some potential marathon entrants in the group. There are currently 82 active members. People do not have to sign up for a fixed number of runs or achieve a specified level, this is not about training elite athletes. In addition to subsidised membership, the club intends to hold some open evenings and taster sessions to try and build membership. The relationship with other running groups,

Couriers and the Ghost Runners was explored. It was stated that Couriers is mainly aimed at younger people, and the Ghost Runners has a different approach. The groups are complimentary rather than competing with each other for members.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

E) YELENI THERAPY & SUPPORT – MEETING INCREASED DEMAND

The Chair welcomed Kate to the meeting and invited her to present her application. The group is seeking funding to expand their activities to offer services to people of any age, with any type of cancer and at any stage of the disease. They offer a range of complimentary therapies which are particularly valued for their capacity to reduce harmful side effects of the aggressive chemo and radio therapies that are used to attack cancers. Often people come when they have got well into treatment or even after a course, as side effects can build up and continue after a course. Completion of therapy can often be a crisis point. The service is very much client led with each patient having a key worker. With Haven closing down, 77 new patients have come with breast cancer, and the temporary funding during the COVID-19 pandemic is now ceased. Just over 50% of clients come from within the City, and there is also an online advice and support service. On average there are about 1,300 new cancer cases in the county every year and about one third of all people will get cancer in their lifetime.

In answers to question the following additional points were noted.

It had been vital for Yeleni to be able to step up and take on extra breast cancer patients when Haven closed down. Although need is ongoing and may get worse, this is a one off application and they do not yet know whether they will be seeking funding in future years. Sessions are usually one per week, but some patients prefer to spread them out and tie them in to other reasons to come into the City, for example other clinical appointments. The treatments are targeted at ameliorating side effects and have been proven to be effective. They also support cares in helping them to understand side effects and how to help the patient cope with them. Councillor Stevens referred to the support he received in the past and how much his daughter benefitted from their advice as a main carer.

The service holds the Macmillan quality mark, which is good but unfortunately does not bring any funding with it. Although Yeleni works with the Breast Cancer Support Group the latter do not offer any therapeutic work, they were simply a self-help and support group for patients. It is hard to run a truly self-help group for cancer patients as they are often too ill to take this sort of commitment on, so professional input is vital.

The Chair thanked the representative for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

F) HINTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – FIT & FED & COSY CAFÉ HUB

The Chair welcomed Carol to the meeting and invited her to present her application.

Carol is a Police Community Support Officer in South Wye and is standing in for a colleague who had wanted to attend this meeting. Fit and Fed is an initiative run by the Boxing Academy and the West Mercia Police aimed at giving positive alternatives to children who would

otherwise be at risk of drifting into anti-social behaviour and crime. It has been taken up by parents and is really valued by them. It runs through half terms and longer school holidays and is especially aimed at latch key children to give them some nutritious and well balanced meals whilst engaging in healthy social activities. The Police attend in uniform to try and build a positive perception of their role and break down barriers; there is no attempt to conceal their input. The project will run through to the summer holidays in 2023.

In answers to questions the following additional points were noted.

This project is not specifically targeted at young offenders referred through the youth justice system, it has a much wider scope than that. The position around school meal vouchers carrying on in the holidays is far from clear and may be subject to local provision within the County without the previous government funding. By providing food rather than vouchers it is possible to know what the children are eating. The children are contacted mainly through Police referrals rather than schools. Apart from the food the project provides a relief from isolation, boredom and increasing stress within families. There is very little wasted food and there is no consideration of making a notional charge. In warmer weather the meal is a lunch box, from October half term it will be a cooked hot meal. There are about 25 local volunteers with some very valued support from well know local boxers who bring a considerable lift when they visit. The age range varies, the cheer leading group being younger than the young boxers for example.

The Chair thanked the representative for her presentation, and she left the meeting.

Councillor Wilcox also left the meeting at this point.

G) REACT – BOUNCING GIRLS AND BOYS, YEAR 2

The Chair welcomed Michael and Richard to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The group had applied earlier for £20,000 to be able to expand their services with new trampolines and associated safety equipment. This application was for £10,000, although they noted that this was after the EFCSO had advised them to reduce it to £5,000 if they wanted to stay within the Committee's delegated powers. No-one is leaving the group and the waiting list for membership is growing, there is clearly demand for this kind of provision. There are 22 trampoline classes a week with 380 participants. Four new trampolines would cost £9,360, alternatively the grant could be used for other gymnastic equipment such as asymmetric bars, beams, and crash mats at £11,008. Tumbling requires additional equipment at £10,400.

The Chair explained that an application for £10,000, if supported at the Committee, would have to be referred to full council for a final decision.

In answers to questions the following additional points were noted.

Whilst it is a worthwhile endeavour to encourage children into recreational or competitive gymnastics, we need to balance this against the applications we have for more basic needs such as keeping children adequately fed. The categorisation of areas of poverty in government policy is unhelpful in terms of attracting funding from that source, the concept of

neighbouring and serving which used to apply to facilities just outside a defined area of deprivation no longer exists. Providing really high quality equipment is desirable but also very expensive. It is regrettable that all the funding related to COVID-19 and the Omicron variant has been directed by Herefordshire Council towards provision at HALO and not shared more widely in the community, but that is not something the City Council can intervene in. Although the rent on their premises seems very high, it is commercially competitive according to recent advice from a lettings agent.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

H) COUNTRY PARK SUPPORTERS

The Chair welcomed Phil, Bobbie, Mel and Ronnie to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The CPS have been running for some time and are seeking an extension of the three year service level agreement they have with the Council which runs out this year. Phil passed around a photo montage of recent activities and members have already seen the annual report. The group are now in their ninth year of being responsible for the Belmont and Heywood Country Park which is a hugely valued asset for the whole City. It costs roughly £4,000 a year to maintain and therefore the City Council are being invited to contribute half that cost. The Duchy of Cornwall and the Police and Crime commissioner have made funding available for capital projects which is appreciated, but not for supporting ongoing revenue. The story book trail has been completed and is going well. Goods and services are purchased locally wherever possible. About 85% of the park area is within the City boundary. Following a successful installation at Alyestone Park, two new recycled plastic benches have been installed and a 360 year old oak tree that died and fell down has been recycled into safer steps to access the pay area. Over 700 hours of volunteer time a year is put into keeping the park in good order.

In answers to questions the following additional points were noted.

The use of the dead oak was an excellent idea. The story book trail has been receiving very positive feedback. Belmont Library have been very good in helping to promote this. There are 32 official “supporters” in the group with over 400 social media contacts. Use of the park during COVID-19 went up as people learned to appreciate open space more than ever. The City’s money would be used for fuel for the mower, insurance and maintenance works to fences and gates. This is a wonderful facility and is being provided for the City at astonishingly low cost.

At the conclusion of this presentation, the meeting was adjourned to hear further presentations and make decisions when it reconvenes on 10 October.

Present on 10 October 10am

Councillor Sue Boulter (Chair) and Councillors Paul Stevens, Aubrey Oliver (part), Cat Hornsey, Brian Wilcox, Ange Tyler (part), Kath Hey (part).

In attendance Steve Kerry - Town Clerk, Dave Tristram - External Funding and Community Support Officer (EFCSO).

CD2022/23.32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillor Rob Williams.

CD2022/23.33 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2022/23.34 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CD2022/23.35 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

No new forms had been received since the first session of this adjourned meeting.

CD2022/23.36 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

1) ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN – ACTIVITY SUPPORT AND INTEGRATION

The Chair welcomed Anna, Olga and Maria to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The group has existed nationally since 1947 but it was the recent surge of refugees from conflict that led to the formation of a local branch. They have been very successful in getting deliveries of humanitarian aid, food, clothing, sanitary and medical supplies out to Ukraine and thanked the Council for their assistance with this. Three full sized truck loads have been sent and donations continue to come in daily. A number of refugees are now with host families but if the refugees are relatives of their hosts there is no state aid. They are working closely with the Kindle Centre, HVOSS and the Living Room. The main area for which they now seek support is with translators to enable Ukrainians to take advantage of what is available and to begin to engage independently with their new community. Language teaching sessions so far have been full, and there is a great deal of interest in the community in learning more fluent English. Pending a larger bid for Herefordshire Council funding of up to £100,000 via HVOSS, the group needs funds to keep going for eight weeks, which is the purpose of this application.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The great majority of refugees are women and children, only elderly or disabled men are allowed to leave because of the obligations of military and other emergency service during the conflict. If the Council does not fund the project, they will carry on as far as good will takes them and urgently seek funding elsewhere. There are Ukrainian language leaflets giving details of their work and some will be sent to members for distribution at community centres and other possible locations where they will help. The Council could also carry social media messages on behalf of the group. If the larger grant is unsuccessful, they will carry on

somehow but it will be piecemeal and nowhere near enough to meet the known need. For continuity of service and stability they need their own place and secure funding.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

J) UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY – REPLACEMENT FENCE

The Chair welcomed Russell to the meeting and invited him to present the application. Victoria Park is the main facility and under their lease they are responsible for the fence which needs both repair and improvement to make the site more secure. The Men's Mental Health Group and the developing Community Association started up by Cllr Foxton are among the other uses to which the building is put, it is not just a sports club house. Cameras and lights have been broken and the goals have been wrecked more than once. The ongoing costs and the impossibility of getting affordable insurance means that the Club need to make their site more secure.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

There was some S106 money left over which can be applied for to help with the fence costs. The S106 agreement around the new Holmer Estate is still under discussion. A 24 hour security guard has not been considered because of costs and no idea how long it would be necessary before it was truly effective. There might be a possibility of buying in to a roving service such as that at Maylords and the Garrick Street car park. There are some good neighbours who report vandalism, etc. There might be a possibility of restoring a cricket pitch on the site, but the ground needs to be managed quite differently for that than it does for football. In addition to the users already noted, Westfields use the pitches for training sometimes and the venue is let out for parties to raise revenue. This might be a suitable "warm place" under the new initiative to help with heating costs for hard pressed households. The club intend to fence the whole site with gated access to Aylestone Park to allow the parking there to be used on match days to avoid antagonising the local community with inconsiderate parking.

K) VENNTURE – HEREFORD CITY NIGHT SHELTER

The Chair welcomed Lisa and Sam to the meeting and invited them to present their application. The application is for the Night Shelter and relates to the winter resilience programme. About two years ago Lisa came to Hereford to work on reducing rough sleeping, sofa surfing and other forms of homelessness and realised transformational change was required, not maintenance of existing services. The shelter at St Peter's was a dormitory style setting but for better safety it must now be replaced with single accommodation. The service is not just a sticking plaster over a problem, using the Lean On Me service, the Street Pastors, and the Ambassadors during the day the service will have eyes and ears on the people it is seeking to help. Wrap around support and care can be offered, although inevitably there will be some who do not want to engage and prefer to remain in a chaotic lifestyle for the time being. The target is no on-street deaths during the winter. New Zara House is just opposite the alms houses in Whitecross Road and offers a suitable facility. There will be two separate units for anyone with COVID-19 and arrivals will be tested to try and minimise cross infection in the shelter. The shelter will open at 8pm and close at 8am when users won't just be shown the door, they will be handed on to the Street Link team to try and find them somewhere safe

to go. Those not ready for their help will be given a pack of a flask and a blanket to make staying out safer. Lisa quoted some testimonials from service users about the value they felt the service placed on them as individuals rather than as problems. By 31 March Vennture will be able to report on the number of people using the shelter, the number referred on for medical interventions, the number housed in hostels or other longer term accommodation, the number assisted into work and also provide data on the background and causal factors in rough sleeping such as alcoholism, substance abuse, and the main one which is relationship breakdown. To give a sustainable onward service after the Night Shelter, Vennture have just completed the purchase of the Merton Hotel for conversion as a hostel.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The sponsors are aware of the problems caused in the past by anti-social behaviour around the alms houses and the high impact that has on the elderly residents there. Appropriate security measures and staff would be in place to minimise this. Given the large funds available to Vennture was this really something they needed the City Council's support on? It was noted that the investment in the Merton Hotel was from a private donor who prefers to remain anonymous, but that it would replace the provision that used to be offered at SHYPP but for a wider clientele. The Night Shelter was over and above that and addressed a different need. There is some concern about the City Council being drawn into funding adult social care services which are the proper role of Herefordshire Council, however, there is no legal obligation, and therefore no government funding, for housing single homeless adults. The "Everyone In" policy which cleared the streets of most rough sleepers across the country was a COVID-19 project and is not carrying on. The other provisions for housing people at risk such as Pomona Place, the Connexus development on the Bath Street site, etc. were noted, none of them provide emergency relief for rough sleeping on a night by night basis. The linkages to voluntary and statutory services are notably complex and vary according to the presenting needs of each individual, that is why the proposal is to work with people one to one, to support them into more stable and healthier lifestyle choices.

The Chair thanked Lisa and Sam for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

L) HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY – AUTISM AWARENESS & SUPPORT

The Chair welcomed Lucy from the local branch of this national body and invited her to present her application. Lucy began by presenting her colleague's apologies, she had been called to an urgent meeting as part of the review of Herefordshire Children's Services. The application reflects the need to restart activities post COVID-19, including the much valued autism reality bus. The bus gives people, especially carers and teachers, a realistic, and often quite disturbing, insight into how the children they are living and working with interact with the world around them. It is otherwise extremely hard to appreciate this. It has been tested and validated by a person with the condition, despite the general health warning against people on the spectrum using it, she was determined to give it a go and her feedback was immensely valuable. The bus has to be booked as there is a great deal of demand and without the grant sought it would have to be cancelled which would be a lost opportunity and a waste of resources. The other part of the application was to restart the children's group. This needs the right setting and a higher level of supervision than most youth groups.

Two members added their personal observations of supporting children with autism from their daily and work experience.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The £2,500 estimate comes from aggregating known costs for hiring staff and space and the cost of replacing sensory equipment which by the nature of the play and the children taking part takes a battering and has a relatively short life. The open play is essential to give carers and staff time to talk and for parents and other carers to form mutually supportive relationships. Because other fund raising is possible now the amount sought for this grant was confirmed as £2,856.

The Chair thanked Lucy for her presentation, and she left the meeting.

M) 3DEGREEZ ALLSTARZ – PLACEMENTS PROGRAMME

The Chair welcomed Clare and Katie from the organisation who showed a video of the activities of the group. They would like to offer scholarship places for deprived families and have contacts with Talk Community, the South Wye PCSO, Hinton Community Centre and the Food Bank. The application includes the cost of a t-shirt and a speaker and microphone with carry case to allow the apprentices to do school outreach events. The Apprentice is one of their ex-athletes who has completed their college training.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The group have other funding to support the apprenticeship programme and a summer event. They are space limited to 12 kids per session and would like this to be an annual event for which they will be raising more money. They encourage older children to get into junior coaching as good role models for the youngsters. There are more girls than boys but the balance varies for different activities. There are 7 competition teams and 15 recreational classes from tots to adults so well over 100 people are being reached. Hinton Community Centre and Holmer Church Hall are the main venues.

N) WHEELED SPORTS 4 HEREFORD (WS4H) – WATER SUPPLY & FOUNTAIN

The Chair welcomed Charlie and Colin and invited them to present their application. The group has been running for some time and has raised over £1m, but only took their first paid staff member on this year. Half of the board of trustees are now under 25 which better reflects the age group using the facility, which is a centre of excellence suitable for national competitions. They have seen a need for piped water since 2008 and the Allotments Society have agreed to a separately metered supply being drawn from their connection which is much cheaper than new pipe running under the A49. This is the culmination of joint working with the Society on wildlife projects and security fencing and relationships are generally very good. WS4H had been advised not to include a water connection in their proposal to Stronger Towns Fund as that was focussed on construction costs using the specialised concrete required, nor to link it to the funding sought for the café development. This was a simple standalone application for an essential facility to support ongoing development. The only alternative to

this or going across the road would be to try to link with HALO but this had not been progressed and would probably be more expensive.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The allotment users would receive advance notice of when the work would be done as this would require the access to be closed for two days. In the winter this was not likely to be a major problem. It was good to see younger people coming on the Board to replace those who had started this up. The City Council had funded the development of the skatepark in the past and through the sculpture project with the plinths installed there but had not been previously asked to support the water scheme, although it had urged the Allotments Society to resolve this as part of its own relationship with the plot holders. It was again confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund application for the café and store did not refer to piped water and the sale of pizza and running barbecues did not require it, but the ongoing development catering here certainly does, the lack of water being the most frequently mentioned issue by users in their suggestions for improvements. Providing water will reduce the number of bottles being brought onto the site and both reduce litter and reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. The group has a sublease from the City Council based on the City's 25 year lease. It was agreed years ago that the City would surrender this lease as soon as Herefordshire Council was ready to grant a new lease directly to WS4H, but this had not been progressed by Herefordshire.

The drinking fountain will be outdoors and will be frost proofed and protected against bird droppings to retain its utility. The pipe route will be about 10 metres in from the allotment boundary and then around the site to the café area. It was noted that the committee could award £5,000 but the full application would have to be referred to Council if the Committee recommended a higher payment.

The Chair thanked Charlie and Colin for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

O) LOOK UK – HEREFORD FAMILY NETWORK PROJECT

The Chair welcomed Charlotte and Helen to the meeting and invited them to present their application. LOOK is a national charity based in Hereford for young people to be able to beat the isolation and low employability of those with significant visual impairment. It is considered to be one of the most isolating forms of disability with only one quarter of visually impaired people in employment. The group was set up when one of the presenters lost her sight at seven years of age and there was a dearth of support outside the purely clinical and educational support aimed at the child. Parents and carers were somewhat adrift. The main project is to train young blind people to be mentors to assist others with integrating into society and fully achieving their potential. As a result of the Royal National College being in Hereford, many young blind people stay on in the City and the surrounding area, so the need is greater here than in many other parts of the UK. Full sight loss in young people is rare so sufferers are often very isolated from their peers. There are around 15 families in the City needing this kind of support. The group have had two successful visits to primary schools to increase understanding among children and would like to do much more. They are building links with clinicians at the hospital, Vision Links and the Herefordshire Council Sensory Impairment Team who will refer families on for more specialised support. Families have to battle to get the best for their visually impaired children with a professional network in the

County stalled by COVID-19 and not yet restarted. LOOK will be registered as a specialised facility with Talk Community so the hubs will be aware of them.

In answer to questions the following additional points were noted.

The way visually impaired people overcome their disability and fight for their place in society is truly inspiring to many. Herefordshire Association for the Blind and Vision Links do great work but mainly among the elderly with declining or lost sight, LOOK is explicitly focussed on the young blind person and the families. They are talking to Vision Links about working much more closely together and pooling resources where this would be beneficial. They also do work experience placements in conjunction with the Royal National College which is building another useful working relationship.

The Chair thanked Charlotte and Helen for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

C2022/23.37 RESOLUTIONS ON GRANT APPLICATIONS

The EFCSO reported that so far, the Council has committed £18,000 of its £100,000 annual grants budget. There are two more grants meetings to come before the end of the financial year. The applications before the Committee today total £50,420.94. The grant form says we would normally make grants up to £3,000. Those for up to £5,000 should show special merit to be awarded at that level. What “special merit” means must be judged on the merits of any application. As before, any application for more than the Committee’s delegated authority, now £5,000 must be referred to full Council unless the Committee decides to make an award for £5,000 or less. The officer will be presenting a report on options for the next meeting of the Committee to manage the rapidly rising demand for grants. The Clerk added that he was seeking approval from the Policy and Resources Committee for a budgeted direction which would include drawing on accumulated reserves to make a significant uplift in next year’s grants budget. This would be resolved at full Council in January as part of the process for setting the budget and council tax.

A) HEREFORD BOWLING CLUB – FLAT ROOF REFURBISHMENT

There was concern about the very low level of membership, but it was noted that they are doing everything they can to increase that including sessions with the Cathedral School and the non-bowling activities. Members considered whether the application had sufficient special merit to go above £3,000.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Stevens that a grant of £3,000 be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Tyler that a grant of £5,000 be made.

On being put to the vote the proposal for £5,000 was lost by five votes against, two in favour and one abstention.

On being put to the vote it was, by six votes in favour, none against and one abstention

RESOLVED That the Hereford Bowling Club be awarded a grant of £3,000 in respect of their current application.

B) CHRISTIAN LIFE CHURCH – REVIVE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

This was felt to be a very worthwhile project and discussion focussed on whether it had sufficient special merit to go above £3,000. The lack of any similar provision for this client group elsewhere in the City was an important factor in the consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Wilcox that a grant of £3,000 be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Hey, and on being put to the vote it was by five in favour and three against

RESOLVED That the Christian Life Church be awarded a grant of £4,236.94 for their Revive café as set out in their current application.

C) HEREFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – EURO 2022 LEGACY

It was noted that this application is very timely and was felt to have special merit. Women's football had been given a further boost by the Lioness' success against the World Champions USA in front of a full house at Wembley.

It was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Tyler and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Herefordshire Football Association be awarded a grant of £5,000 in respect of their current application.

D) WYE VALLEY RUNNERS – 40TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

Concern was expressed about the degree to which this is an elite group and how welcoming it is to beginners. It is a sound project, but the membership drive for 150 is very ambitious and may not be achievable. With a low membership subscription of £15 pa they are still not attracting large numbers of people. It was noted that Ghost Runners welcome everyone including wheelchair users and after one grant have been self-supporting. There was also some doubt about funding open evenings as well as subsidising personal membership.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Tyler and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Wye Valley Runners be awarded an immediate grant of £1,500 with officers authorised to release a further £1,500 if the club achieves 75 new members before October 2023.

E) YELENI THERAPY & SUPPORT – MEETING INCREASED DEMAND

Councillor Tyler abstained from the debate on this item and did not vote having declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Members felt this was a vital service and with Haven closing, the need had grown exponentially, and the project should be fully supported.

It was proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Stevens and unanimously

RESOLVED That Yeleni be awarded a grant of £5,000 in respect of their current application.

F) HINTON COMMUNITY CENTRE – FIT & FED & COSY CAFÉ HUB

Councillor Hornsey abstained from the debate and vote having declared a nonpecuniary interest.

Members felt this was a very sound project and appreciated that it covered every school break up to next year's summer holidays. Sustainability of provision was an important factor in deciding this application had special merit.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Owens and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Hinton Community Centre be awarded grant of £5,000 for their Fit and Fed and Cosy Café Hub projects.

G) REACT – BOUNCING GIRLS AND BOYS, YEAR 2

Councillor Oliver left the meeting at this point. Councillor Hornsey abstained from the debate and did not vote having declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Members expressed concern about the lack of clarity in the application although it is intended to provide a first class gymnastic and related project for local children. The changing amount sought and the variable destination of the grant if awarded concerned some members. To some extent it was seen as a good cause but not necessarily a very good application. It was noted that several other groups had refused funding because of similar concerns about lack of detail and the view that a business model based on a commercial rental of £40,000 pa is not sustainable.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hey and by four votes in favour, one against and with two abstentions it was

RESOLVED That no grant be awarded to React in respect of their current application.

H) COUNTRY PARK SUPPORTERS EXTENSION OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Members expressed some concern that they have been saying to the group for some time, they need to organise some fund raising to reduce their dependence on a recurring grant or SLA with the Council. However, it was noted that their total expenditure is far higher than the grant sought, and they have been successful at leveraging money for capital works. It was felt that the country park is a wonderful facility obtained for the City at very little cost to its Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and with one abstention

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,000 be awarded to the Country Park Supporters as an extension of the funding previously awarded to them under a three year service level agreement with the Council.

I) ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN – ACTIVITY SUPPORT AND INTEGRATION

Members felt this was a sound project supported by a very competent presentation.

It was proposed by Councillor Hey, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and unanimously

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be made to the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain in respect of their current application.

J) UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY – REPLACEMENT FENCE

Members felt that securing this site to enable its continued use by a range of groups as well as the football team had obvious community benefit and should be supported.

It was proposed by Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be awarded to United in the Community in respect of their current application.

K) VENNTURE – HEREFORD CITY NIGHT SHELTER

Members noted that this had been a very professional presentation but were concerned at the resources of the organisation and whether it really needs the level of support being sought. However, even a rich organisation could be supported if their funds were committed to other projects and the need for a decent night shelter was clear. There was also concern about whether all the claims about joint working had in fact been delivered.

It was proposed by Councillor Boulter and seconded by Councillor Hornsey that a grant of £3,000 be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox and seconded by Councillor Hey that a grant of £5,000 be made.

On being put to the vote the proposal for £5,000 was lost by four votes against, three in favour and one abstention.

On being put to the vote it was, by five votes in favour, one against and one abstention

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be made to Vennture in respect of their current application.

L) HEREFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY – AUTISM AWARENESS & SUPPORT

Members felt this was a very worthwhile project and the presentation had provided all the necessary information to make a decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hey and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Herefordshire Branch of the National Autistic Society be awarded a grant of £2,856 in respect of their current application.

M) 3DEGREEZ ALLSTARZ – PLACEMENTS PROGRAMME

Members felt this was an excellent application for a very worthwhile project.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Owens and unanimously

RESOLVED That 3Degreez AllStarz be awarded a grant of £3,144 in respect of their current application.

Councillors Hey and Tyler left the meeting at this point.

N) WHEELED SPORTS 4 HEREFORD – WATER SUPPLY & FOUNTAIN

Members felt the supply of water to the site is important and applauded the work of the group in achieving an agreement with the Allotments Society which offered the cheapest solution.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Committee recommends an award of £7,950 to Council in respect of this application.

O) LOOK UK – HEREFORD FAMILY NETWORK PROJECT

Some concern was noted about the group working in isolation, but they seemed to be addressing this now and making appropriate links with the Sensory Impairment Team, RNC and Vision Links. It was clear that this is a hard to reach group and families desperately need the kind of support being offered. Members also considered whether the project met the “special merit” criterion for an award above £3,000.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That LOOK be awarded a grant of £5,000 in respect of their current application.

The EFCSO advised that the Committee had resolved to spend up to £61,667 of the annual £100,000 grants budget, with a decision on another £7,950 for the skate park awaited from Council.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their commitment to two long meetings and declared the meeting closed. Members thanked the Chair for providing excellent refreshments at both meetings.

Signed

Date