



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS COMMITTEE - 26 JUNE 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Cat Hornsey (Chair) and Councillors Boulter, Griffiths, Hobbs, Kenyon, Proctor, and Stevens.

In attendance: Steve Kerry Town Clerk, Dave Tristram External Funding and Community Support Officer.

CD2023/24.27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillors Carwardine and Spencer.

CD2023/24.28 SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CD2023/24.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were declared. The following Schedule Two (non-pecuniary) interests were declared:

Councillor Hornsey, family connection with React - Agenda Item 10

Councillor Stevens, Chair of the BID - Agenda item 10

Councillor Kenyon, Chair Tupsley Community Action Group - Agenda item 10

Councillor Proctor, family connection to RNC - Agenda item 10

Councillor Kenyon, family connection to Hit Squad - Agenda item 10

Councillor Boulter, family connection to Allotments Society - Agenda item 10

Councillor Kenyon, possibly pre-determination by connection with parties to Allotments - Agenda item 10

CD2023/24.30 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Hobbs and unanimously

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 5 June be accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CD2023/24.31 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

None.

CD2023/24.32 ANNUAL REPORTS

None.

CD2023/24.33 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

None.

CD2023/24.34 STATEMENT AND RESOLUTION

Before the Committee considered small grant applications, the Clerk read a statement concerning the process for evaluating which applications could be considered without a representation. This had been agreed to be introduced for the September cycle, but no officer had been delegated to do it before then, nor could the Chair or Vice Chair act in place of the Committee. Accordingly, to give expression to the Committee's wishes the Clerk had acted as the Council's Proper Officer to approve a recommendation from the External Funding and Community Support Officer as to which applications were complete enough to be considered without presentation. He sought ratification of that decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Potts seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That the Committee notes that the Clerk has acted under delegated powers to give effect to the Committee's wishes to have a shorter meeting and to consider some applications without a presentation. The Committee affirms this action and agrees to consider the applications listed on the agenda for debate without presentations as set out on the agenda.

CD2023/24.35 SMALL GRANT HEREFORDSHIRE CITY OF SANCTUARY New in Life in Hereford £3,500

The Chair welcomed Ken Godbert and Vikki from City of Sanctuary to the meeting.

City of Sanctuary is a local branch of a national networks dedicated to supporting refugees providing respect, hospitality, support and signposting to services. Mainly in the City, it operates in Herefordshire among primarily Afghans and Syrians. The Growing Ukrainian refugee community has its own local support network with whom they liaise. They have a drop in on Fridays which provides language support and advice on and access to housing benefit, medical care, the Police and volunteer services. They also try and arrange social events to build community among the groups and enjoy the food and culture they bring. They also work through the Kindle centre to help people find employment, with Hinton for the boxing club and with other sports provides to encourage outdoor activity which is important to the mental and physical health of those in hotels awaiting decisions from the Home Office. Ken quoted examples, including one young man who had arrived at 16 with no English, and who has now, three years later, been accepted to study medicine at Newcastle University. Other examples were given of people who have progressed very quickly through further education into professional careers. The group can respond much more quickly than statutory bodies to needs, and work closely with local churches (among whom the group started) the Mothers' Union and hross. Through Herefordshire Council they do awareness raising work in local schools and are seeking to support the Courtyard in becoming a theatre of sanctuary. The grant is for equipment to support all aspects of their programme.

In answer to questions the following additional information was noted. There are three Afghans living in the City, who are currently in Burghill Cricket Club as it is the nearest facility to them. All volunteers are subject to DBS checks and there are comprehensive safeguarding policies and frequent training refreshers for them and staff. Herefordshire have been helpful in funding DBS checks. The Group were invited to join the Tupsley Quarry event on 15 July. The IT element of the

grant is for software, including licenses and consumables such as ink cartridges as they have received a donation to pay for the laptops. The first City of Sanctuary work in the City was set up by the Bishop of Hereford and the Friends' Meeting House is in King Street, which is still their main meeting place.

The Chair thanked Ken and Vikki for their presentation.

CD2023/24.36 SMALL GRANT WHITECROSS SCHOOL Jubilee Garden and Tree Nursery £5,000

The Chair welcomed Katie Horne to the meeting.

Katie explained that the school have an area of ground which is being developed in line with a project devised by their Eco Club during lockdown. They were given some seed funding for initial planting and now wish to move on to the next stage. The aim is to enhance CO2 sequestration and improve biodiversity. The plan centres on the planting of a Myawaki forest, which she explained was a tiered forest of trees, shrubs and lower growing plants giving a varied habitat, all using native species. The tree nursery had been suggested by the local tree warden and would grow trees during the period a Year 7 pupil would grow into a Year 11 pupil so they would see their project to completion. The maturing trees would then be available for planting on, and new nursery trees would replace them. There are 300 trees in the Myawaki forest, with one large English Oak as the centrepiece. There are nine local community volunteers supporting the school and they are developing a scheme for people to adopt a tree. The main use of the grant money sought would be the hard landscaping, including the accessible path.

They had been particularly pleased that pupils in the positive intervention academy, who had not settled well into mainstream school, were taking a great interest and found working outdoors in groups on planting and other tasks a really good way of improving behaviour and social interactions. Gardening is now part of the specialised curriculum these pupils work through. They have asked local gardeners for their grass clippings to be used for mulching the trees and are looking forward to the next stage of forest planting which is the shrubbery. There will be an annual eco-festival starting in April next year and a community dig for the shrubs in Autumn.

In answer to questions, further points were noted. The school is not clear who owns, and has responsibility for, the Perfect Pathway adjacent to their grounds, noting that Herefordshire Council had stopped a tree planting project there after intervention from the Planning Officers. The school are very keen to work with the Wildlife Trust on the Yazor Brook project. The nursery is currently 50 trees which is manageable. The school would like to measure airborne carbon before and after their planting and are looking for help on how to do that. They will consider a suggestion from a member to plant Christmas trees as a way of raising funds for the ongoing project.

The Chair thanked Katie for a very complete presentation.

CD2023/24.37 SMALL GRANT HEREFORD ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS Hot Composters £2,862.03

The Chair welcomed Derek Mumford from HALG to the meeting.

Derek explained that metal hot composters work much more quickly than domestic plastic bins as they hold much more heat. This means that plant material is digested much quicker, and kitchen waste can be included as it too will rot down. The four hot bins were for the larger allotment sites and the three 200 ltr bins were for the smaller ones. The bins were sealed so the use of food waste would not encourage rats.

In answer to questions the following further points were noted. The site representatives will make sure the compost is shared out fairly and that no-one grabs more than they need. This is similar to the way they manage wood chippings, which our contractor leaves for them when larger trees are removed if they are dangerous or pollarded. If the long running saga of the Holmer lease was resolved and some extra land made available from the Racecourse then a larger composter could be put there, at the moment there is enough space for the composters planned under this grant application. The hot composter heats up to 80 degrees without any external energy being supplied so it is at least twice as hot as a plastic garden bin, therefore has a much greater capacity.

The Chair thanked Derek for his presentation.

The following grants were reviewed without presentation as per minute CD2023/23.34 above.

**CD2023/24.38 SMALL GRANT HEREFORD AMATEUR PANTOMINE SOCIETY
Sound System and Equipment Storage Hire £3,000**

This is a good organisation and involves lots of local people, many with special needs. The group only come to City Council when they need specific help, they are largely self-supporting. They perform at the Tomkins Theatre in Whitecross Road, but have also worked at the Courtyard. This is a capital application for equipment to avoid ongoing rental costs which is a sound idea, and the group had said they would be willing to lend/rent the equipment out to other groups. They have a large costume store so are able to secure their equipment and look after it when it is not being used.

CD2023/24.39 SMALL GRANT HEREFORD BID Halloween 2023 £3,100

It was noted that the taxation we impose on the local community is not primarily to support local businesses, that is a County role. However, Herefordshire Council have recently confirmed they are pulling funding from AppleFest and Ferrous, and that the funding they have been taking credit for recently has been government money for post-COVID recovery for which they are a delivery agent. However, events are to build footfall and to provide enjoyment for residents and visitors; the footfall should benefit business, the enjoyment benefits the community. It was noted that changes to the way business rates work mean that the BID has lost £60,000 in projected income this year and that, with Herefordshire declining to offer financial support (although some support in kind might be available), there is a need for support to put on events like Halloween. Funding within the BID is severely restricted by the ballot commitments which constrain the Board's choices. Noted that the price of the circus acts reflects the extensive use that will be made of them.

CD2023/24.40 SMALL GRANT MELODY DANCE COMPANY Summer Camp and Sports Club £2,731.47

This is part of the ongoing Fit and Fed programme which the Council has supported before and is very worthwhile. The External Funding Officer has asked to pursue with the group the possibility of widening the service offered by including venues beyond Hinton, especially to the north of the City. Possibilities for doing this were noted and would be discussed with the applicants.

CD2023/24.41 SMALL GRANT HIT SQUAD HELPERS Community Group £2,639.59

It was noted that the Hit Squad do a lot of good work supporting events and are often available at short notice to rescue events that are running short of volunteers. It was also noted that the Hit

Squad volunteers at City Council events had probably saved more in catering and other hire fees in a year than the value of this grant.

CD2023/24.42 SMALL GRANT REACT CLUB CIC Next Step In Inclusion £3,000

Councillor Hornsey vacated and Councillor Hobbs took the Chair for this item.

It was noted that this was a much better application than previous ones from React, and they had presented full and clear information in support of the application. Members had no concerns and several expressed support of the proposal.

CD2023/24.43 SMALL GRANT CULTIVATING LEARNING AND NATURE Building Future Naturalists £2,935

Councillor Hornsey returned to the Chair.

Noted that this was not a duplication of the Whitecross School application although there could be some useful synergies. It operates in 12 out of the City's 17 schools so has a good reach in the community. There was specific discussion about two elements of the application, the travel costs for the tutor and the £300 for the administrative assistant. These may not be within our normal grant making criteria which do not cover administrative running costs or salaries except in exceptional circumstances.

CD2023/24.44 SMALL GRANT ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE Electronic Scoreboard and Clock £3,478.80

Councillor Proctor left the meeting at this point.

It was noted that the existing board has reached the end of its useful life, and this is a high prestige location in the City and should have good equipment. It was also noted that the prominence of the scoreboard means that the City Council's logo must be prominent on it if we fund it. This would be a strict condition of any grant award. It was noted that RNC are part funding this, the application is for 50% of the total cost.

**CD2023/24.45 SMALL GRANT CENTRAL TUPSLEY COMMUNITY GROUP
General Community Activity £1,000**

Councillor Procter returned to the meeting.

It was confirmed that the Group are no longer seeking funding for insurance, the element referred to on the application form, this would now be directed to additional children's entertainments. Members supported this change. The fuel is for a mower borrowed from the Aylestone Park Support Group who received a grant for that machine from the City Council partly on condition it was shared with other groups. Members were pleased to see this was happening. It was noted that there is likely to be an ongoing need for support for this very effective local group and at a future meeting consideration would be given to setting up an annual service level agreement to give them more certainty around their budgeting and planning. The bank statement shows a reserve of around £5,000 which is to cover the possibility of their annual fireworks at which a substantial collection is usually raised, being rained off and raising no funds, the fireworks would still have to be paid for.

CD2023/24.46 RESOLUTIONS ON SMALL GRANTS

All members who had declared non-pecuniary interests abstained on the resolution on the applications they had declared an interest in.

- a) **Herefordshire City of Sanctuary - New in Life in Hereford**
 It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon seconded by Councillor Potts and unanimously
RESOLVED To award Herefordshire City of Sanctuary. a grant of £3,500, in line with the application received, this project having sufficient merit to award above the £3,000 threshold.
- b) **Whitecross School - Jubilee Tree Nursery and Garden**
 It was proposed by Councillor Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Kenyon to award £5,000.
 It was proposed by Councillor Stevens and seconded by Councillor Proctor to award £3,000.
 On being put to the vote on £3,000 there were three for, three against and two abstentions.
 On being put to the vote on £5,000 it was, by five votes for, two against and one abstention
RESOLVED To award Whitecross School a grant of £5,000, in line with the application received, this project having sufficient merit to award above the £3,000 threshold.
- c) **Hereford Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - Hot Composters**
 It was proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Griffiths and with two abstentions
RESOLVED To award HALG a grant of £2,862.03 in line with the application received.
- d) **Hereford Amateur Pantomime Society - Sound System and Equipment Storage Hire**
 It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Boulter and unanimously
RESOLVED To award a grant to the Hereford Amateur Pantomime Society of £3,000 in line with the application received.
- e) **Hereford BID - Halloween**
 It was proposed by Councillor Hobbs, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and with four in favour, none against and three abstentions
RESOLVED To award HBID a grant of £3,100, in line with the application received, this project having sufficient merit to award above the £3,000 threshold.
- f) **Melody Dance Company - Summer Camp and Sports Club**
 It was proposed by Councillor Boulter, seconded by Councillor Potts and with one abstention
RESOLVED To award Melody Dance Company a grant of £2,731.47 in line with the application, with the proviso that the External Funding and Community Support Officer encourages them to expand their offer by using other venues.
- g) **Hit Squad Helpers - Community Group**
 It was proposed by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Hobbs and with one abstention
RESOLVED To award Hit Squad Helpers a grant of £2,639.59 in line with the application.
- h) **React - Next Step In Inclusion**
 It was proposed by Councillor Boulter, second by Councillor Hobbs and with one abstention
RESOLVED To award a grant of £3,000 in line with the application.
- i) **Cultivating Learning and Nature - Building Future Naturalists**
 It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Potts that a grant of £2,635 be awarded, deleting the element for the administrative assistant.

It was proposed by Councillor Hobbs seconded by Councillor Proctor that an award of £2,935 be made including all elements of the application but with further information being supplied to officers about the travel expenses and administrative costs.

On being put to the vote on £2,635 there were 8 for, none against and no abstentions.

On being put to the vote on £2,935 there were 3 for, 4 against and one abstention.

It was therefore

RESOLVED To award Cultivating Learning and Nature a grant of £2,635, for the items in the application other than the £300 for the administrative assistant.

j) Royal National College - Electronic Scoreboard and Clock

It was proposed by Councillor Hobbs, seconded by Councillor Stevens and with one abstention

RESOLVED To award RNC a grant of £3,478.80, in line with the application, this project having sufficient merit to award above the £3,000 threshold.

k) Central Tupsley Community Group - General Community Activity

Councillor Kenyon left the meeting at this point.

It was proposed by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Stevens and with one abstention

RESOLVED To award the Central Tupsley Community Group a grant of £1,000 in line with the application, noting that the element for insurance is deleted in favour of increasing the amount for children's entertainments, and to encourage them to engage with the External Funding and Community Support Officer to develop a proposal for an annual service level agreement to meet future funding requirements.

CD2023/24.47 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 6 pm (this will include deciding which grants need presentations for the next meeting)

Monday 18 September at 9.30 am (Grants)

It was noted that the new process for grant applications had been successful and the judgement as to which applications did not need presentations to be resolved had proved to be sound. This process would continue for the next round of grant applications.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Signed

Date