



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (GRANTS) 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 (6pm)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Cat Hornsey (Chair) and Councillors Debbie Hobbs, Polly Andrews, Paul Stevens and Jim Kenyon (part).

Officers attending: Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Dave Tristram External Funding and Community Support Officer.

CD2023/24.59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Sue Boulter, Alex Griffiths, Sam Potts and Ben Proctor and from Jim Kenyon for lateness.

CD2023/24.60 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

Councillor Proctor had nominated Councillor Andrews as substitute.

CD2023/24.61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made at the start of the meeting.

CD2023/24.62 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings of 26 June and 5 September be accepted as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CD2023/24.63 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

The External Funding Officer reported that he hadn't had time to review the form from the Armed Forces Breakfasts Club, as it had only just been received, he would present it to the next meeting. The other forms had been reviewed and were in order. The forms were noted without comment.

CD2023/24.64 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – GROWING LOCAL £10,000 PA FOR THREE YEARS

The External Funding Officer reported that this group has applied for funding for some years, and he had suggested they applied for a Service Level Agreement. This project was dependant on their Stronger Towns Fund money, which was for capital, this was revenue for running costs. The STF bid is joint with NMITE and the sports clubs on the south bank. Members noted that the group do a lot of good work and had deserved their past support. There was some debate about whether some of this application could have been considered as a revenue element of the STF bid and some concern about the quality of advice given in the early stages of the bid

process. The project has started with ground being ploughed and seeded. Nonetheless, members felt it was too early to be committing to a three year funding package and would prefer to make a one off grant and consider this again when the project was fully underway, and its costs and outputs better known. The amount in the first year was just under £10,000.

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

RESOLVED That the Committee recommends that Council agrees to a grant of £9,852 as a one off grant this year and will give further consideration to an application for a service level agreement in a year's time.

CD2023/24.65 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION AGE UK £4,969 New Retail Unit Set Up

Members queried whether this was within the grant criteria as it was a business start-up. The External Funding Officer clarified that the purpose of the shop is to make the charity self-financing in the future, which is in accordance with our grant policy and that as well as a commercial outlet it would be a one stop advice shop and a hub. Members noted there was much in the application they would wish to support in terms of the hub and advice services, and this was a more appealing project than funding a charity shop retail outlet set up. They were concerned about setting a precedent of grants for equipping charity shops. It was also noted that although each area of Age UK is free standing under the umbrella of the national organisation, this was a joint project involving Worcestershire and the Marches.

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

RESOLVED That no grant be made in respect of this application but that the group be encouraged to apply again for the community service and support elements of their project which the Committee felt a future meeting would be likely to wish to support.

CD2023/24.66 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION ART4VETERANS £1,800 Art Consumables

It was noted that this group had been supported last year and they had submitted their grant completion form in plenty of time. Councillor Stevens added that they had put on a very good presentation at the Courtyard. This was a very good application.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £1,800 be made to Art4Veterans in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.67 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION CLD TRUST £2,750 Roller Resilience

Councillor Kenyon joined the meeting at this point.

It was noted that this was a very good application within the context of Strong Young Minds and was something the Council should be getting behind.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,750 be made to CLD Trust in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.68 SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS COUNTRY PARK SUPPORTERS £2,000 Ongoing Activities

It was confirmed that the previous SLA with this group was now completed. The Clerk added that the group had been supported for some time with two SLAs and members had noted in previous discussions that they wished to see evidence that the group was seeking other funding and becoming self-sufficient. It was noted that the application includes insurance which is a regular running cost that groups are expected to fund themselves and is outside the grant criteria. It was noted that the group had a surplus of income over expenditure last year and have an unrestricted reserve of £35,000. It was felt that they needed to be encouraged to manage without City Council funding in the future.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £500 be made to the Country Park Supporters in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.69 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN £3,500 Website Redesign

Members felt that the amount sought was very high for a website and cheaper alternatives should have been considered. The issue of Stronger Towns funding was noted – although it was also noted that the website was for all the Friends’ activities not just the STF project so it might well have been deemed out of scope. It was a matter for concern that after delivering a substantial saving in their revenue costs by funding the heat pump for the new centre, the same group were asking for funding for another relatively routine item. Nonetheless this was a group with a good track record who deserved some support.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £1,000 be made to the Friends of Castle Green in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.70 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION MARCHES COUNSELLING £2,987 Subsidised Counselling for Older People

Councillor Hobbs queried if the information on results of other funding applications had been received, the External Funding Officer said he had not seen the result of one item, but it might be in emails he had not read having just returned from leave. It was noted that the need for a counselling service for elderly people is great and that they are not a group that attracts much attention from other sources. The group have a good track record, and this looks like a good project. The funding is to enable services to be accessed by people on low incomes.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,987 be made to Marches Counselling in line with the application, conditional on officers receiving the answers sought on the external funding applications but without prejudice to the nature of those responses.

CD2023/24.71 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION ROYAL NATIONAL COLLEGE £3,000 Two Team Shelters

The External Funding Officer reported that he had put in an application form for funding for a scoreboard before the last meeting which had been withdrawn as they had secured funds for that; this one should have been submitted instead. It was noted that teams currently have no shelter from the weather and the site is very exposed. It was also noted that this is the playing

area used for televised internationals, so it was vital that clear attribution to the City Council for funding was visible. The College were aware of this and had agreed in advance to this stipulation.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Andrews and unanimously

RESOLVED That a grant be made of £3,000 to the Royal National College in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.72 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION SOUTH MARCHES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL Solar Panels and Battery Storage

It was noted that the funding sought is fully for solar panels. Members were very supportive of this as part of an ambitious project to build a state of the art Scout and Community Centre and that out of a total cost of £800,000 the Scouts had raised almost all the funding they need. This was a remarkable performance and evidence of a very well supported project. It was also noted that when Council resolves the proposal around grants for Climate and Biodiversity projects moving to that Committee, this application would be a suitable one for them to consider, but at present it was still in the Community Development remit.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £5,000 be made to the South Marches District Scout Council in line with the grant application.

CD2023/24.73 RESOLUTIONS

It was noted that the issuing of the agenda in time for members to give careful scrutiny to the applications had reduced the time taken for the meeting to well under an hour. This made it reasonable to take resolutions on an item by item basis and this would be practice in future.

It was also noted that Monday meetings were difficult for some members to attend because of work or family commitments. To this end the next grants meeting would be moved to a Tuesday evening as the problem with elongated meetings, which had led to them being called for the daytime, had been solved. Agendas for grants meetings would still be sent out two weeks before the meetings, for general agenda meetings one week before. No more than twelve grant applications would be considered at a single meeting, any more would be held over until the next meeting. Assuming Council agree to take some grants business to Climate and Biodiversity Committee, that Committee would follow the same process for grants and use the same criteria as Community Development Committee.

CD2023/24.74 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17 October at 6 pm (General Items)

Tuesday 28 November at 6 pm (Grants Items)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:20 am.

Signed

Date