



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE 5 DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillors Ben Proctor (Vice Chair), Cat Hornsey, Jeremy Milln, Sam Potts and Dan Powell

Attending: Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Dave Tristram External Funding and Community Support Officer

CBD2023/24.32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillor Owens (Chair) and Councillor Toyntee.

CBD2023/24.33 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Potts was substitute for Councillor Owens. As Vice Chair in Councillor Owens' absence Councillor Proctor chaired the meeting.

CBD2023/24.34 DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

Councillor Hornsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5 Grants for climate change and biodiversity projects as a voluntary trustee to the body making the application.

CBD2023/24.35 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Milln and, with two abstentions,

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2023 be accepted as a true record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CBD2023/24.36 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION PUTSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

The External Funding and Community Support Officer presented the application stating that this was in its original form and there had been some difficulty making contact with the applicants to add any updates. Specifically, he had heard that the group might want to increase their application as they had not been successful from another source. The Clerk advised that this would take the total grant above the Committee's delegated authority of £5,000 so would have to go to Council for approval. It would not be right to grant more than the amount applied for on the form, if the group wanted to they could withdraw this application and submit a larger one for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed to consider the application as stated for £5,000.

The EFCSO also alerted the Committee to the fact that we are still working with general grant criteria used by Community Development Committee and there would be merit in having some more specific climate and biodiversity criteria to guide applicants, assist the Committee in resolving applications and in guiding the Chairs and Vice Chairs of both Committees as to which one was best suited to consider a particular application. The Clerk suggested he and the Officer

draft something for the next Committee. It was imperative that applications did not bounce from one committee to another and were considered once and resolved. Members endorsed this view.

In considering the application itself members noted that the application has merit in that it addresses a fear of crime issue, encourages walking and cycling through an otherwise unwelcome and rather unattractive area if it remains unlit and does so in a way that is environmentally sensitive and minimises carbon emission. The lighting was selected to minimise light pollution into the sky. Concerns about the sustainability of the infrastructure were noted and considered. The batteries should last for many years, the lights are movement sensitive so only come on when needed and they are on 6 metre high poles so the batteries and LEDs will not be vulnerable to damage. It was also noted that the columns will be a new installation replacing previous not very effective ground level lighting set into paving, which is now almost all removed after damage and flooding and so planning permission would be required. This is reflected in the resolution below.

The Clerk reminded members that applications above £3,000 must have substantial special merit to meet the grant criteria, otherwise they should be limited to £3,000.

Councillor Potts proposed, Councillor Powell seconded and with Councillor Hornsey recording her abstention having declared a non pecuniary interest, it was

RESOLVED That the application from Putson Community Association for lighting in Staddlestone Circle does have sufficient special merit to warrant a grant of £5,000 subject to confirmation that planning permission has been given for the installation.

CDB2023/24.37 ECO AWARDS

Councillor Hornsey reported that the Food Alliance have just received national recognition with a Bronze Award.

The Clerk described the consideration that has taken place at Policy and Resources about setting up a civic award system based around the Mayor's Commendations. This would be run from the Autumn next year with a request for nominations, consideration at confidential sessions of the Committee and culminate in awards in January 2025, a sort of local New Year Honours list. There was no reason why environmental awards could not take place as part of that, preferably on the same cycle but with consideration at this Committee.

It was noted that there was some overlap with the Herefordshire Council awards that have been proposed and were agreed two years ago but have not been taken forward despite prompts from some members.

Members considered whether nominations should be from councillors putting forward projects in their wards or whether it would be better to ask the public to bring forward proposals. After a brief discussion it was decided both approaches should be taken. As with specific grants it would be good to have specific award criteria and these could be brought forward to the next meeting.

It was also noted that the Youth Council have considered but not been able to progress a similar initiative and their input into this area of the Council's work would be specifically requested.

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

RESOLVED To bring forward award criteria for climate and biodiversity awards as part of the larger community award scheme which has been approved at Policy and Resources and to plan for awards to be considered and resolved on the same timescale.

CBD2023/24.38 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Grant Criteria (February Meeting)

Awards Criteria (February Meeting)

Review of Allotments polices and environmental elements of the agreement with HALG

Environmental implications of the feasibility study by MACE on the future of the Town Hall

HCC Carbon Footprinting

CBD2023/24.39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk advised that following the comment at Council by Councillor Owens about meeting frequency the calendar had been revised to add an extra meeting and align others with Community Development grants meetings so there is minimal delay in deciding grants whichever committee they go to.

Next meeting Tuesday 20 February at 6 pm

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

Signed

Date