



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

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

CD2023/24.101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were noted from Councillors Boulter, Griffiths, Proctor and Spencer.

CD2023/24.102 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Andrews was substituting for Councillor Proctor.

CD2023/24.103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hornsey declared a pecuniary interest in Item 6 on the agenda, small grant application from St Martin's Parochial Church Council as she is employed by that body.

CD2023/24.104 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2023 be agreed as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

CD2023/24.105 GRANT COMPLETION FORMS

The EF+CD Officer reported that the forms shown had been received and appeared to be in order, which was confirmed by the Chair. A query on one item had been resolved. Councillor Kenyon joined the meeting at this point.

Grant completions forms noted.

CD2023/24.106 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION - HEREFORDSHIRE LORE LOCAL HISTORY DAY £3,000

Members noted that this was an active organisation and was doing very good work. Their regular newsletter was informative. There was concern that they need to be seeking funds from other sources, the Council could not be expected to go on being the main, or only, funder for this event forever. The EF+CS Officer stated that when he is asked for information by potential applicants, he does not tell them they can't keep applying for the same item year on year, as there is nothing in the grants policy to say this. If members wish to apply such a rule it would need to be applied to all applicants within the overall grants policy.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be made to Herefordshire Lore for the Hereford Local History Day project in 2024 but that a letter be sent to them urging them to seek wider funding for this event in future and for the Officer to offer such advice as he can to assist in that.

**CD2023/34.107 LARGE GRANT APPLICATION - WHEELED SPORTS 4 HEREFORD SKATEPARK
SEATING AREA £9,000**

Members noted that this project has been an outstanding success and paid tribute to the work done by former Councillor Anna Toon in fighting its corner to get it started in the first place. It had an impressive track record of obtaining external funding and had recently made a successful bid for Stronger Towns Funding for a major upgrade. This application was for additional furniture and facilities and would complement the large grant well. The Skatepark had always given full attribution to the City Council for its on-going support and being associated with such a successful project would redound to the Council's credit. It was also noted that they have an impressive record of liaising with local groups with taster sessions for schools and children's groups for example. It was noted that bank details should have been redacted from the grant form.

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

RESOLVED To recommend to Council that a large grant of £9,000 be made to Wheeled Sports 4 Hereford in respect of their application for further facilities at the Skatepark.

**CD2023/24.108 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION - HUNDERTON COMMUNITY GARDENS
ASSOCIATION PLAY SESSIONS £2,700**

It was reported by the EF+CS Officer that the Herefordshire Council Holiday Activities and Food Programme might be an alternative source of funding for this item. The activity is planned for Christmas and Easter holidays and funding decisions from Herefordshire Council are proving very slow. Members considered releasing sufficient funds for the immediate event to give the group time to apply for HC funding for the second event.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £1,350 be made in respect of the Easter element of the application and that the Committee notes that it will consider a second grant within the calendar year if an application to Herefordshire Council's HAF Programme is unsuccessful.

**CD2023/24.109 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION - UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY WELFARE FACILITIES
UPGRADE £3,000**

The EF+CS Officer reported one correction to the application. The figure given of three for members refers to trustees, there are hundreds of people involved with this organisation. It was noted that the group make excellent use of their facilities and willingly share them with other groups, including Tupsley Girls FC, the new Wessington Juniors FC and beyond football with the community coffee mornings run by Councillors Foxton and Boulter. The application includes improved security fencing to prevent trespass and vandalism. It was also noted that they are making a joint application for further funding with Tupsley Girls FC.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £3,000 be made to United in the Community in respect of the items listed in their application.

CD2023/24.110 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION – THE CRACKED SLIPPER COMPANY HOLIDAY DRAMA CAMPAIGN £4,340.50

It was noted that this item could be the subject of an application to Herefordshire Council's HAF Programme and was considered in the same way as the application from Hunderton Community Gardens. Members noted that a lot of the application is for staff salaries which we don't normally support and that in their view the application did not have the special merit need to go above the £3,000 threshold. Members considered in their deliberations if the application could be postponed until the next meeting, but the event was planned to start at Easter, so this was not possible. The group do have a good track record of applying for, and getting, external funding from other sources and should be encouraged to approach Herefordshire regarding this project.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,170.25 be made to The Cracked Slipper Company in respect of the items listed in their application, and that the Committee will consider a second application within the calendar year if they are not able to secure funding from Herefordshire Council's HAF Programme.

CD2023/24.111 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION - ST MARTIN'S PCC MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT £4,760

Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item at the start of the meeting, Councillor Hornsey left the room. Councillor Hobbs (Vice Chair) took the Chair for this item.

It was a concern of members that this was a very general programme of children's activities, and the mental health element was not particularly strong. It was also noted that the PCC itself appears to have a body of funding that could be used to support this activity. There was some supporting evidence from youth workers and teachers about the general benefits of programmes of this kind but nothing from young people themselves such as a survey indicating a demand for it. Coupled with the tenuous link to mental health this was not a strong application.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Stevens and, with 4 votes in favour and 1 against, it was

RESOLVED That the application from St Martin's PCC be rejected and no grant awarded.

CD2023/24.112 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION - ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP HEREFORDSHIRE ACTIVITIES PROVISION £2,654.61

Councillor Hornsey returned and resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

It was noted that this local group already have support from Macmillan and are addressing a gap in the support given to carers which nationally is very poor. It is important that a group that seeks to address that is supported.

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

RESOLVED That a grant of £2,654.61 be made to All Cancer Support Group in respect of the items listed in their application.

CD2023/24.113 SERVICE LEVEL APPLICATION - AND RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR 2024 RIVER CARNIVAL AND HEREFORD HAPPENING

Members felt that this was a class event that had a very good reputation and brought much credit, and many visitors to the City. They always give full publicity to the City Council in respect of our support and that is warmly appreciated. The group should be encouraged to consider applying some sort of inflator to their SLA in future as £10,000 will not go as far in future years as it does now.

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

RESOLVED That the Committee recommends to Council the release of £10,000 for this year's River Carnival and Hereford Happening.

CD2023/24.114 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT - BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL - RELEASE OF YEAR TWO 2023/24 FUNDS £3,000

Members were impressed with the report and the ongoing work of the Festival. As the SLA is within the limit for grant wards set for the Committee, this item could be resolved at this meeting. It did not need to be referred to Council.

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

RESOLVED That the annual report from Borderlines Film Festival is accepted and that funds for year two of £3,000 (2023/24) be released.

CD2023/24.115 UPDATE FROM THE EXTERNAL FUNDING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

The EF+CD Officer reported that he was still working on a list of our successes in obtaining external funding which currently stands at £1,066,000.00 excluding the Hereford Zipper at £1,628,000.00. He had received 119 grant enquiries leading to 64 applications and the budget would be largely spent this year. Requests for support were increasing.

On 17 April he will be meeting the Chairs of this Committee and Climate and Biodiversity Committee to iron out the details of which grants went to which committee for decision and also to review the grant criteria to include some of the points made about "frequent flyers", organisations with existing resources to fund their own activities and having some specific environmental criteria for C&BD Committee to apply.

In late June he would be heavily involved in a funding event organised by HVOSS and he will be providing some funds for refreshments and incidental expenses for this.

The Town Hall feasibility study is progressing well with MACE the consultants who have produced a very imaginative and interesting set of proposals. They are responsive to decisions and a pleasure to work with. He has also been contacted by two officers at Herefordshire Council who are notably keen to work with him on the development of a decent Cultural and Heritage Strategy which will make applying for funds for the Town Hall much easier. He has even been invited to sit on the interview panel for his successor as an external funding adviser to Herefordshire Council.

He concluded by thanking the Town Clerk for his support and encouragement during his settling in period with the City Council including sound advice and gallows humour. He felt that moving to the City was the best career move he ever made, and this was due in no small part to the leadership and support of the Town Clerk.

The Clerk thanked Dave for his words and members for their supporting applause. He reported on the difficulties with Herefordshire regarding the Town Hall, the abrupt volte face regarding the library which would now be in the building for at least two years, having previously been definitively excluded from consideration only a few months ago, and the strange decision to disown their own procurement decision. He would seek clarification, and the financial contribution for the feasibility study as a matter of urgency.

CD2023/24.116 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Business Plan and Community Development priorities

Blue/green plaques when Sprytar information is available

Review of grants processes

Publicity for Council activities and finding support

CD2023/24.117 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

11 June 2024 at 6pm - Community Development

9 July 2024 at 6pm - Grants

The proposed meeting for 9 April will not be called.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

Signed

Date