

**A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD
WAS HELD ON 28 MAY 2008**

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber)(ex-officio), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Smith)(ex-officio), Councillors Chegwyn (P), Dickson, Geddes, Mrs Mudie (P), Mrs Salter (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillors Beavis and Burgess would replace Councillors Dickson and Geddes for this meeting.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Chegwyn be appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Board for the Municipal Year 2008-2009.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Mudie be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Board for the Municipal Year 2008-2009.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Kimber), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Smith) and Councillors Dickson and Geddes.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

6 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

7 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

8 REVENUE GRANT AID APPLICATIONS

The Sub-Board considered the report of the Financial Services Manager and Leisure & Cultural Services Manager (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix 'A') concerning a number of applications for Revenue Grant Aid.

(i) Solent Kestrels Basketball Club (Individual Member)

Consideration was given to an application for £412 towards the cost of an individual member to attend the England Under 18 Men's trials in April. The Club believed he was a very talented player with good potential but his parents were unable to provide financial support.

Members agreed to £350 in grant aid.

(ii) Hampshire County Youth Band Association

The Association was a voluntary group of parents and members of the three County Youth Brass Bands and Endangered Species Project. Consideration was given to an application for £500 towards the total cost of the project.

Jill Lerner represented this organisation and reported on the second success of the band in retaining their title 'National Youth Brass Band Champions of Great Britain' for 2008.

Members were in favour of supporting the work of the Hampshire Youth Band; they were aware of the Band's income from several other Councils but it was acknowledged that this Council had a limited grants budget.

Members agreed to £250 in grant aid.

(iii) Self Defence Gosport

Consideration was given to an application for £654 towards the cost of setting up this new project by two qualified First Aid volunteers who taught self defence. The aim of this non-profit making project was to provide training, channelling the energy of young adults and children from the age of 15 years and to improve fitness for self defence. Mixed Martial Arts was an expensive activity to participate in.

Walter McPhee represented the Group and explained the reasons for its formation and that he had experience of running two similar clubs in Paisley, Scotland for 4 years where he had raised funds through sponsorship. Mr McPhee had set aside £100 and had arranged to hire the new building at the Salvation Army HQ, The Crossways. He had prepared a training plan and was arranging to purchase up to date, safe equipment.

In response to Members' questions Mr McPhee explained the background to the sport; that Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks had been applied for; that a dedicated Group bank account to pay any grant cheque into would be set up and that further fund raising was planned.

Members' concerns were that there was only a small amount of start-up funding available although they wished to encourage this venture. They suggested that it might be possible for Mr McPhee to re-apply to GBC for a further grant at a later date and Hampshire County Council might also be willing to contribute.

Members agreed to award £100 in grant aid subject to satisfactory CRB check results and the opening of the Self Defence Group's bank account to officers' satisfaction.

(iv) Gosport Gators Netball Club – Adult Division

Consideration was given to an application for £220 towards an overall estimated total cost to provide coaching qualifications. The Club would like to provide Level 1 Coaching Qualifications for two of the Adult Division members at a course in Dorset run by 'All England Netball'.

Rachael Keywood represented this organisation and explained that it was likely the head coach would be emigrating, they were anxious that the Club should continue but had not applied for a grant before. The Club would like to provide training to develop the players and in return provide more opportunities for the local community to participate in netball.

Members agreed to the request for £220 for grant aid.

(v) Courts Zone Resident Group

The Group was formed in 2007 and consisted of approximately 700 members who lived in Portsmouth Housing Association (PHA) properties in Rowner. Funding was requested to assist in the provision of circus skills activities over six days in conjunction with a professional company Cirque de Normandy, Gosport Carnival Factory and South East Hants Community Outlook (a PHA charity). It was planned that the Circus School would visit several venues across the Borough with two evening performances in the 'Big Top' at St Vincent field. Consideration was given to an application for £1,000 towards the expected costs of providing these activities.

Lynette Lind represented this Group, organising activities to bring children and residents together and with the circus coming to St Vincent field, discussions had been taking place for some months to provide circus skills activities for children around the Borough.

Members considered this to be a good cause, worthy of support and agreed to the request for £1000 for grant aid.

(vi) Gosport Borough Youth Football Club

Consideration was given to an application for £1,000 towards the estimated cost of staging a tournament at HMS Sultan Polo Fields for over 100 teams from all over the South of England. Gosport Youth FC was formed in 1990 and provide football opportunities for approximately 381 children.

Members appreciated that the Club provided excellent sports activities for local youngsters, that the Tournament was worthy of support and that economically the Borough could gain from it. Members noted that the Club had already raised a substantial amount towards the cost of the event.

Members agreed to the request of £1000 for grant aid.

(vii) British Junior Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team (Individual Member)

Consideration was given to an application for £700 in grant aid towards an overall estimated total cost of £1,400 for an individual member to attend the National Ultimate Frisbee Women's European and World Championships.

Sian Miles attended the meeting and was the individual member of the self-funded Frisbee Team for whom grant aid had been requested. Sian explained that support was growing for this popular sport; that she had taken part in coaching and had been a volunteer in South Africa. A substantial amount had already been raised to cover costs to enable her to compete in the Championships in Vancouver in August 2008.

It was noted that another member of the Frisbee Team had been granted £700 by the Grants Sub-Board in February 2008 and, at that time, it was understood that this was likely to be a 'one-off' application.

Members agreed to award £350 in grant aid.

(viii) Suki Aerobics Gymnastics Club (Individual Member)

Consideration was given to an application for £1922 in grant aid towards an overall estimated total cost of £3845 for a senior gymnast from Gosport who was ranked 4th in Great Britain. This talented gymnast would like to return to America to compete within a trio who, last year, won a Bronze Medal for Great Britain.

The Gymnastics Club was represented by Mrs Porter whose daughter Natalie had already achieved success and was currently representing Great Britain in France. To illustrate Natalie's success many photographs, newspaper/magazine articles and clothing were circulated for Members' attention. A verbal update on the accounts already submitted to the Grants Sub-Board was also given and it was reported that additional funding had been raised for future international competitions.

Members appreciated the high standards reached and the hard work carried out by Natalie for the Club.

Members agreed to award £1000 in grant aid.

(ix) The Grove Community Group

Consideration was given to an application for £260 in grant aid towards an overall expected cost of £520 to hold a Summer Fete on 12 July 2008. The Group was formed in 1999 to work with Gosport Borough Council and Groundwork to transform a redundant school playground into a valuable community green space. The Fete was being held to raise funds to help the group operate throughout the year; they had not applied to any other organisation for a grant towards this project.

Trevor Jones represented the Group and it was explained that the park was located in Grove Avenue and was available for use by all residents in the Borough.

Members considered this was a reasonable request, acknowledged that the park was beautifully kept, that it was a credit to their hard work and suggested that The Mayor might be invited to attend the Summer Fête.

Members agreed to the request of £260 for grant aid.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) A grant of £350 be paid to Solent Kestrels Basketball Club (individual member);
- (ii) A grant of £250 be paid to Hampshire County Youth Band Association;
- (iii) A grant of £100 be paid to the Self Defence Group subject to the satisfactory results of CRB checks and the opening of the Group's bank account to officers' satisfaction;
- (iv) A grant of £220 be paid to Gosport Gators Netball Club;
- (v) A grant of £1000 be paid to Courts Zone Residents Group;
- (vi) A grant of £1000 be paid to Gosport Borough Youth Football Club;
- (vii) A grant of £350 be paid to British Junior Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team (individual member)
- (viii) A grant of £1000 be paid to Suki Aerobics Gymnastics Club (individual member); and
- (ix) A grant of £260 be paid to The Grove Community Group.

9 CAPITAL GRANT AID APPLICATIONS

The Sub-Board considered the report of the Financial Services Manager and Leisure & Cultural Services Manager (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix 'B') concerning a number of applications for Capital Grant Aid.

(i) The Beacon Foundation

Consideration was given to an application for £7,000 in grant aid towards the Foundation's latest project to build an Enterprise Academy on the Bay House School campus between the Cocked Hat public house and HMS Sultan. The grant application was being made to meet a shortfall in the construction of the new Academy. Planning permission had been obtained and the move to the new accommodation was being requested to progress with the project to enable the three senior schools in Gosport to participate from September 2008. The Foundation had been set up as a charity in recognition that, in any community, some teenagers did not respond well to learning in mainstream schools and teaching was based on a pastoral approach to core skills and employability skills. £229,500 had already been raised towards this project and when the scheme was running in the new premises, the number of students could be considerably increased.

Members were aware that a contribution had already been forwarded to the Foundation through the Gosport Community Safety Partnership but they were in favour of supporting this initiative.

Members agreed to award £2500 in grant aid.

(ii) Gosport and District Sports Association for the Disabled (GADSAD)

Consideration was given to an application for £20,000 in grant aid towards increasing the variety of sports and activities for GADSAD by extending the current hall to provide enough space to bring winter sports indoors during the winter months and to provide new activities. This in turn would give scope to increase the Club's membership and the ability to accommodate other community groups who would like to use the hall on a regular basis.

Mr Clark represented GADSAD, distributed his report to Members giving further information and stated that the balance of the Hall Fund Account had now increased from £17090 to just under £25000. Mr Clark explained that last year GADSAD were taken over by a Church group and, at that time, the hall storage was adapted for use by Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guides. The Club would like to extend the current hall to accommodate additional community groups such as New Age Curling and Archery and the provision of a shooting range.

Members were appreciative of the work by GADSAD for the disabled but mindful of their budget constraints.

Members agreed to award £5000 in grant aid.

(iii) St Faith's Church, Tribe Road, Gosport

Consideration was given to an application for £1,000 in grant aid towards the cost of refurbishing the kitchen including new appliances. Fund raising had taken place since October 2006 and had now reached approximately £5,500 towards an estimated cost of £8,500.

Rob Clark represented St Faith's Church and explained that modernisation had taken place 20 years ago, that membership was increasing and the kitchen was well used by the local community for the preparation of meals and refreshments. The Church was financially independent and discussions had recently taken place with Environmental Health Officers to discuss health and safety matters. The kitchen was in need of an upgrade and although fund raising events had been held an additional contribution would be appreciated.

Members acknowledged that this was the only community hall in Leesland Ward and that the hall was regularly used by senior citizens as well as by local children for activities in the school holidays.

Members agreed to the request of £1000 for grant aid.

(iv) Jacobs Well

Consideration was given to an application for £15,480 in grant aid towards the cost of addressing the request of residents to supply pre-used white goods. To provide this service Jacobs Well had applied for funding for building work, were planning to service the goods and 'PAT' testing them before redistribution. The project would initially be run as a PAT Test facility and later become a workshop where white goods could be repaired.

Rob Sawyer and Stuart Pottinger represented Jacobs Well Care Centre which was set up as a charity in 1992 and, at that time, was part of the Jacobs Well Pentecostal Church, sending aid to Romania and providing furniture for the needy of Gosport. Since then the operation had grown considerably and they now work with many local agencies as well as running a charity shop in Gordon Road.

The application included a request for a contribution towards the cost of sending two staff members on a PAT training course who could train volunteers to use the equipment, many of whom could use their experience at the Centre as a spring board back into work.

The current bank statement, a plan and separate estimate for the building work were circulated for Members' attention. It was suggested that, for the estimate of £31,650 for building work, a more detailed quotation might be more appropriate for this part of the project. Members applauded the work of the Centre and considered that in the circumstances it might be more appropriate to consider the PAT Testing application and building work estimate separately.

Members agreed to award £5000 in grant aid for the 'PAT' Testing facility.

(v) HEDCA

Consideration was given to an application for £2,300 in grant aid towards the cost of installing CCTV cameras to assist in alleviating problems of youths congregating around the car park area in recent years.

Members noted that the bank balance and cash included a substantial amount 'ring fenced' for Hampshire County Council regarding prepayment of preschool contribution and insurance.

Mrs Utey represented HEDCA and explained the background to the recent problems they had experienced with a number of youths entering the premises and causing disruption and issuing verbal abuse. Several youths were in the process of being taken to Court with the possibility of prosecution. Gosport Police were in favour of this initiative and it was hoped that if up to date CCTV cameras were installed at HEDCA, this might deter further incidents. Mrs Utey also explained how expensive the current alarm system had become to maintain and that maintenance costs for a new system would be considerably reduced.

Members welcomed the service provided by HEDCA for the community and suggested that they could also make an application to Hampshire County Council for additional funding.

Members agreed to award £1300 in grant aid.

(vi) Residents of Mill Pond Estate

Consideration was given to an application for £1,000 towards the cost of erecting a more substantial fence than had originally quoted for, together with the additional cost of an internal concrete floor to comply with insulation regulations. The new building, to be used as a meeting place for residents, was almost complete and several previous grants had been received from organisations to enable this to come to fruition.

Simon Barnett represented the residents of Mill Pond Estate and explained that they would like to erect a more secure metal railing fence because of the area's use by toddlers and young children and vandalism problems on the estate. It was considered that the fence would enhance the area and add to community spirit.

Members agreed to the request of £1000 for grant aid.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) A grant of £2500 be paid to The Beacon Foundation;
- (ii) A grant of £5000 be paid to Gosport and District Sports Association for the Disabled;
- (iii) A grant of £1000 be paid to St Faith's Church, Tribe Road, Gosport;
- (iv) A grant of £5000 be paid to Jacobs Well;
- (v) A grant of £1300 be paid to HEDCA; and
- (vi) A grant of £1000 be paid to the Residents of Mill Pond Estate.

The meeting concluded at 8.06pm

CHAIRMAN