

A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD

WAS HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2008

The Mayor (Councillor Gill)(ex-officio), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully)(ex-officio) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Chegwyn (P), Dickson (P), Mrs Salter (P), Taylor (P) and Wright (P).

19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor, Councillor Gill.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

22 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

24 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 'A') concerning a number of applications for Capital Grant Aid.

Members were fully aware of capital budget constraints; nevertheless they were of the opinion that each individual grant application should be heard as a separate item.

(i) Gosport & Fareham Inshore Rescue Services (GAFIRS)

Consideration was given to an application for £5,000 in grant aid towards the cost of modifying and extending the existing boathouse to provide more space to house GAFIRS' new boat, improvements to toilet facilities, creation of a store room, a new radar office and the use of a room for disabled persons.

Mr John Martin spoke on behalf of GAFIRS and gave Members an update on a number of background details and changes regarding the accounts and the proposed extension. Mr Martin gave an outline of their considerable local fundraising activities, the generosity of residents of the Borough and drew attention to high maintenance costs of equipment and the existing cramped building. There was concern in that, although planning permission had been granted for the proposed extension, any delay in engaging a construction company might result in increased costs. Members were appreciative of the hard work being carried out by GAFIRS saving lives on The Solent.

Members agreed to this request and awarded grant aid of £5,000.

(ii) Radio Haslar

Consideration was given to an application for £3,500 in grant aid towards the cost of converting several rooms to provide two studios to house transmission equipment and an outside broadcasting unit together with a library and office area.

Chris Pearce represented Radio Haslar and explained that they had been on-air for about 15 years, were based at Fort Blockhouse and had been notified by the MoD that they should vacate these premises before Haslar Hospital closed. New premises had been found at Bury House and despite successful fundraising, further finance was needed for new equipment and other expenses. It was explained that the heritage and name of 'Radio Haslar' was set to continue and new initiatives were planned for the future.

Members were aware of the excellent work carried out by Radio Haslar broadcasting every day to patients in Haslar Hospital and Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Members agreed to the request for £3,500 in grant aid.

(iii) Gosport Community Association

Consideration was given to an application for £13,000 in grant aid towards the cost of replacing the toilet facilities located in the theatre area of Thorngate Halls.

Mr Frank Dunn represented the Gosport Community Association (GCA), understood that there was a funding gap regarding their application and sought grant aid for a different project, ie not the one that was submitted and was before the Sub-Board. Mr Dunn requested that alternative work be considered such as the replacement of a number of floors. Mr Dunn invited Members to visit the centre and gave an outline of previous work carried out including resurfacing the car park. It was acknowledged that maintenance costs were likely to continue to escalate in the coming years.

Members understood the pressure that volunteers and staff at GCA were under including the change in room capacities and car parking arrangements associated with neighbouring Gosport War Memorial Hospital. It was noted that the Council had given assistance in the past and Members appreciated the provision of this facility which was so important to the community.

Members considered it was inappropriate to discuss the suggestion for new floors at this meeting because there was no information before them as to the schedule of works and costings. Members suggested that this application be deferred until the new financial year as there was a budget shortage at this time.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) a grant of £5,000 be paid to Gosport & Fareham Inshore Rescue Services;
- (ii) a grant of £3,500 be paid to Radio Haslar; and
- (iii) Gosport Community Association's application be deferred until the 2008/09 financial year.

25 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 'B') concerning a number of applications for Revenue Grant Aid.

(i) 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.

Sarah Rennison attended as the individual for whom grant aid was requested. Ms Rennison was to compete in the national squad at the Championships in Vancouver, gave an outline of the sport and her background and stated that this was a 'once in a lifetime opportunity'. She was raising further funds through a series of sponsored events and if her grant application was successful she planned to promote the Borough of Gosport.

Members agreed to the request for £700 in grant aid.

(ii) Vitalise

Consideration was given to an application for £1,406 in grant aid towards the cost of 14 care break weeks and 3 volunteer weeks. It was reported that Gosport residents gave three weeks of volunteering during 2007.

There was no representative present from Vitalise, a national registered charity, providing breaks for disabled people and their carers at several centres across the country. Members were advised that the accounts presented to Grants Sub-Board related to the national charity and, although these were detailed, no local accounts were available.

Members acknowledged that this was a worthwhile cause with grants having been awarded over a number of years with consequential benefits for disabled people and their carers.

There were reservations regarding the size of balances held and the lack of local accounts information. Members considered it would be of assistance if any future grant applications from Vitalise could be accompanied by local accounts information. It was proposed and seconded that support of £500 should therefore be approved.

Members agreed to £500 in grant aid.

(iii) Gosport University of the Third Age (U3A)

Consideration was given to an application for £740 in grant aid towards the cost of annual pool hire of £1,440 with participants contributing £2.75 per session for this activity.

Margaret Rowley represented this organisation run by retired people for retired people who provided many regular social and physical activities for nearly 200 members. She explained that the hire of the pool for a dedicated swimming session would be of value to U3A members.

Members considered this a valuable provision in the Borough and agreed to the request for £740 for grant aid.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) a grant of £700 be paid to British Junior Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team (Individual Member);
- (ii) a grant of £500 be paid to Vitalise; and
- (iii) a grant of £740 be paid to Gosport University of the Third Age (U3A).

26 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

As this was the last meeting of the municipal year the Chairman thanked the officers for their continued support.

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm.

CHAIRMAN