

A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD
Subject to Approval
WAS HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2009

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

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Kimber).

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillors Chegwyn and Wright declared personal interests in agenda item 6(v) – Gosport Discovery Centre.

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

27. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

28. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

29. 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.

It was anticipated that the applications before the Board were likely to result in an overspend should they be approved. This was queried and it was decided by the Chairman to continue to hear the applications and treat any overspend as monies approved in the next financial year's budget.

(i) The Nautical Archaeology Society

Consideration was given to an application for £7800 towards the cost of the production of a booklet 'History and Archaeology of Forton', an exhibition, an interpretation panel, a website and an Archaeological Monograph Publication. No previous grant had been awarded to this Group.

The Society was represented by Mr Beattie-Edwards who advised Members that the Group had recently completed a large project of fieldwork in the Forton Lake area examining the abandoned vessels. The group had compiled a report from their findings and were now seeking funding to allow publication.

The Group had received significant funding for the fieldwork from the Crown Estate and the services of an editor for the monograph had been secured free of charge.

Members queried the large estimates for the printing costs of the booklet; Mr Beattie-Edwards advised that the quote for the printing costs included charges for the use of maps, images and to employ writers. Mr Beattie-Edwards also advised that the project had recently been recognised by the United Nations as an example of good practice.

Members queried the large turnover the company had and were advised that this was due to income from the running of training courses at weekends and that a reserve was kept to ensure payment of staff wages.

Mr Beattie-Edwards advised Members that the Group were aiming for the retail price of the booklet to be £1.99 but that this would depend on the amount of money they received through grants and funding.

Members agreed that the historical heritage of Gosport should be supported and agreed that Forton Lake was an interesting project. They were concerned however at the high price of the estimate for printing costs

It was proposed that an award £1000 be made towards half the cost of the exhibition to be held at the Gosport Discovery Centre and that the Society explore the options of a longer or larger print run and consider applying for funding again when this had been done. A draft document could be provided for the Board to examine.

Members agreed to award the Nautical Archaeological Society £1000 towards the cost of an exhibition of their work at the Gosport Discovery Centre.

(ii) The Saturday Venture Association

Consideration was given to an application for £2000 in grant aid towards the cost of an Outreach Worker to allow the project to expand to the Gosport and Fareham area.

The Group was represented by Jacqueline Wetter, who advised Members that the Group was comprised of young disabled people who were trained in confidence building skills utilised by delivering talks and drama workshops on disability awareness to children in mainstream schools.

Mrs Wetter advised Members that as well as benefiting children in the schools visited, the young disabled people themselves were offered the chance to work through and solve their own individual problems; the support provided meant that many trainees were now starting their own groups.

Members were advised that the group had the potential to benefit every Primary School child in Gosport and agreed to award £1000.

(iii) St Johns Church of England Primary School

Consideration was given to an application for £250 to help the school celebrate their Centenary with a Balloon Launch.

Members were advised of a number of events planned to celebrate the Centenary including open days and tree planting.

Members were advised of a letter received expressing concern at the damage a balloon launch may cause to the environment, and were assured that the event would be run by a professional organiser and that the Civil Aviation Authority would be advised at all stages of the process.

Members agreed to award the full amount requested.

(iv) 7th Gosport Scout Group

Consideration was given to an application for £779 in grant aid towards the overall cost of £1557 to replace ageing chairs and tables for their headquarters.

Members agreed to award the group the full amount requested £779.

(v) Gosport Discovery Centre

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Consideration was given to an application for £2,200 in grant aid to enable the Centre to participate in Gosport Borough Council's Big Day Out.

Members were advised that the Gosport Discovery Centre was intending to run a number of seaside themed activities for the day in conjunction with Search Museum and would combine these activities with the promotion of everyday Centre activities including reading schemes and book borrowing.

Members agreed to award the full amount requested.

(vi) Let Us Play Scheme (LUPS)

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the application.

Consideration was given to an application for £2000 towards the cost of £4000 of an OMI beam.

Members recognised that the scheme was beneficial to a number of residents from Gosport and proposed that an award of £1500 be made.

Members agreed to award £1500.

(vii) Felicia Park Urban Farm

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the application.

Consideration was given to an application for £1425 towards providing and maintaining a service to various groups visiting the farm and the community in general.

The group was represented by June Imber who advised Members that the farm provided support and training to a number of vulnerable residents of Gosport including those within the care system.

Members were advised that following discussions with the developers of nearby

land the farm had been assured that they would not have relocate from the premises currently occupied for at least another calendar year.

Members agreed to award the full amount requested.

(viii) Lee Singers Choral Society

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the application.

Consideration was given to an application for £1700 towards the cost of an Orchestra and Soloists to perform at their upcoming spring concert.

The society was not represented at the Sub-Board as they were performing at a previously arranged fund-raising concert.

Members agreed to award the Society £850.

(ix) Thorngate Pantomime and Variety Company

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the application.

Consideration was given to an application for £1000 towards the overall estimated net costs of their productions.

Members were advised that one of the key aims of the Company was to keep ticket prices for audiences as low as possible.

Members agreed to award the full amount requested £1000.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) A grant of £1000 be paid to The Nautical Archaeology Society;
- (ii) A grant of £1000 to The Saturday Venture Association;
- (iii) A grant of £250 be paid to St Johns Primary School;
- (iv) A grant of £779 be paid to the 7th Gosport Scout Group;
- (v) A grant of £2200 be paid to the Gosport Discovery Centre;
- (vi) A grant of £1500 be paid to Let Us Play Scheme;
- (vii) A grant of £1425 be awarded to Felicia Park Urban Farm;
- (viii) A grant of £850 be awarded to Lee Singers Choral Society; and
- (ix) A grant of £1000 be awarded to Thorngate Pantomime and Variety Group

24. CAPITAL GRANT AID APPLICATION

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 an application for Capital Grant Aid.

(i) Hardway District Guiding

Consideration was given to an application for £1000 to provide a new garage for the storage of equipment.

Members were advised that an existing store leased to the group was currently inaccessible in the winter and that the District would like to purchase their own store with lighting and heating facilities.

Members were advised that volunteers were available to lay the floor and to build the garage and that additional fundraising had already taken place by holding raffles and bag packing.

It was that a grant of £2500 be awarded to purchase the whole garage and that an exception be made to the normal procedure not to fund more than half of the project cost.

Members agreed to award the District £2500.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) Hardway District Guiding be awarded £2500.

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The meeting concluded at 7.17pm.