

A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD

WAS HELD ON 18 JUNE 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio), Councillors Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully, Dickson (P), Geddes (P), Hook (P) and Mrs Mudie.

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Wright had been nominated to replace Councillor Mrs Cully for this meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle), Councillor Mrs Cully and Councillor Mrs Mudie.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hook be appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Board for the Municipal Year 2009-2010.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dickson be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Board for the Municipal Year 2009-2010.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Dickson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2009 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) Relate Portsmouth and District

Consideration was given to an application for £5000 in grant aid towards the cost of the running 250 counselling sessions at £45 a session.

Relate was represented by Jackie Buckley who advised Members that the service was expanding and had seen 98 clients in Gosport in a total of 504 counselling sessions.

Members were advised that the service had received money from other funding sources, but that it was restricted to use on other projects, mainly the work it undertook in 16 schools.

The service was applying for a grant to allow sessions to be more widely available to those who could not otherwise afford counselling.

Members agreed to award the service £5000.

(ii) Vitalise

Consideration was given to an application for £2575 in grant aid towards the cost of subsidising care and volunteer breaks

Members acknowledged that the work undertaken by the group was extremely beneficial and that the running costs of the project were considerable.

It was proposed and agreed to award £500.

(iii) Stoke Road Baptist Church

Consideration was given to an application for £500 in grant aid towards repairs to the rendering on the front elevation of the building.

The Church was represented by their secretary Ann Scrivens who advised the Board that they were hoping to become a community Church and serve Gosport residents.

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Members were advised that the long-term aim of the Church was to replace the current facilities but as it was self-sufficient, this would not be completed for some time.

Repairs needed to be undertaken to the building to ensure that it would continue to be usable.

Members expressed concern that the application had been made to cover the cost of scaffolding. They were keen to support the Church but requested that any award be put towards the cost of the renovations.

Members agreed that the Stoke Road Baptist Church was a very well used and valuable facility in Gosport and agreed to award £500 towards the cost of renovations.

(iv) Fareham and Gosport Mind

Consideration was given to an application by Fareham and Gosport Mind for £1410 in grant aid towards the total cost of providing a drama group for its Gosport members.

Members were advised that the group aimed to provide social activities and support to those with mental health issues. In addition it was advised that the support provided by the group was no longer available from Social Services.

Caroline Payne represented the group and advised that they were required to keep 6 months funds in reserve to cover the cost of closure in the event the group should cease to operate.

In answer to a Member's question, it was advised that £20 was the average cost of hall hire, should a higher fee be charged then it would not be used.

The group were currently undertaking their own fundraising to help start the new drama group and had raised £850 to date.

Members agreed that the work of the group should be commended and it was proposed and agreed to award £1000.

(v) The Grove Community Group

Consideration was given to an application for £350 grant aid towards the cost holding a summer fete.

Trevor Jones advised Members that he was aware that the fee to hold the event on Council Leisure land had been waived but that the group would still like to

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request the original amount applied for; this was due to the receipt of a recent quote for the treatment of infected grass being £188.

The group advised that they were using the event to promote awareness of the facility in the hope it would attract new volunteers.

Members commended the group for the work it undertook and acknowledged that the facility was popular.

Members agreed to award the full amount requested.

(vi) The Friends of Leesland Park

Consideration was given to an application for £400 towards the cost holding a 'Party in the Park'

Members were advised that the group had been running for eleven years and aimed to hold an event annually for local residents.

Members acknowledged that the group were very hard working and provided a worthwhile event for the benefit of local residents.

Members agreed to award the group £400 as requested.

(vii) Lee on the Solent Tennis, Squash and Fitness Club (Junior Squash Player)

Consideration was given to an application for £850 towards the total annual costs of £2750 for coaching and training, competition entry fees, equipment costs and travel and accommodation.

Members were advised that the player had represented Hampshire, South East England and most recently England as a Junior international and that he was currently ranked fourth out of 110 in the under thirteen category; it was hoped that this would improve to third in July 2009.

The player advised that his school were very supportive and, when needed, allowed additional time to complete work.

Members acknowledged the need to support young sports players and agreed to award the full amount requested.

(viii) Area Performance Centre South West (Junior Basketball Player)

Consideration was given to an application for £800 towards the overall estimated cost of £1770 to attend coaching sessions and international events.

Members were advised that the player had represented Southern England at a National Selection event and that she had now been invited to play at international events in Prague, Holland and Poland.

Members were also advised that the player was close to being selected for the England squad.

Members reiterated the importance of supporting young athletes and agreed to award the full amount requested.

(ix) Gosport Borough Netball Club

Consideration was given to an application for £710 towards the cost of £1420 of coaching and umpiring courses.

Members were advised that the team had to provide qualified umpires for every match or tournament they attended. If an umpire was not provided then there was a charge to the team.

The members of the team were all volunteers and could only offer training to other team members based on existing experience. The volunteers needed to achieve training qualifications to enable the club to progress and develop into a competitive team.

The club currently ran their own fund raising events including raffles and fun days.

Members welcomed the opportunities the club gave local children and agreed to award the amount requested.

(x) Rowner Carnival

Consideration was given to an application for £1200 grant aid towards the costs of holding the Annual Rowner Carnival.

Members were advised that the aim of the carnival was to bring the local community together with an event that promoted self esteem amongst residents.

Local children were engaged by being provided with the opportunity to make their own costumes; this enabled them to feel they were contributing to the event.

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Members agreed that the event was vital for the community and agreed to award the full amount requested.

(xi) Little Shipmates Pre-School

Members requested that this item be deferred. It was requested that a letter be sent to the Pre-School advising them of this and to request that a representative attend the next Sub-Board meeting to represent them.

(xii) Hampshire County Youth Band Association

Consideration was given to an application for £1800 in grant aid towards the total cost of £3600 to purchase two soprano cornets.

Bram Carter addressed Members and advised that the Hampshire County Youth Band Association were a group of parents and volunteers attached to the youth band that provided extra financial support to supplement funding provided by Hampshire County Council. This included replacement instruments and funding for foreign trips and concert tours,

Members were advised that the band had been the 'National Youth Brass Band Champions' for two of the previous three years.

Members questioned why the Association had applied for a large grant from Gosport Borough Council as only 10 members of the band were residents.

It was advised an application had also been submitted to the County Council to requesting the same amount of grant aid.

It was proposed and agreed that an award of £500 in grant aid be paid.

(xiii) The Provincial 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 £500 towards staging the Provincial Bus Rally 2009.

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John Sherwin represented the Society and advised that it had been formed in 2003 and attended events to promote the buses and educate people about war time vehicles.

Members were advised that the Society was aiming to be self sufficient and that the proceeds of the bus rally would help achieve this.

Mr Sherwin advised the Board that there was a large demand for the buses at events and that it was difficult to meet every request for attendance.

Members requested that the potential for the storage of vehicles in the Borough be explored.

Members agreed to award the Society £500 as requested .

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) A grant of £5000 be paid to Relate Portsmouth and District;
- (ii) A grant of £500 to Vitalise;
- (iii) A grant of £500 be paid to Stoke Road Baptist Church ;
- (iv) A grant of £1000 be paid to the Fareham and Gosport Mind ;
- (v) A grant of £350 be paid to the Grove Community Group;
- (vi) A grant of £400 be paid to the friends of Leesland Park;
- (vii) A grant of £850 be awarded to Lee on the Solent Tennis, Squash and Fitness Club;
- (viii) A grant of £800 be awarded to Area Performance Centre South West;
- (ix) A grant of £710 be awarded to Gosport Borough Netball Club;
- (x) A grant of £1200 be awarded to Rowner Carnival;
- (xi) The application from Little Shipmates Pre-School, be deferred and the Pre-School be written requesting representation at the next meeting of the Sub-Board ;
- (xii) A grant of £500 be awarded to Hampshire County Youth Band Association; and
- (xiii) A grant of £500 be awarded to The Provincial Society.

9. 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, Elson and District Community Association

Consideration was given to an application for £5200 towards the cost of a replacement boiler.

Mr Penfold represented the Association and advised that there were currently two boilers in the facility, an analogue one and a digital one. The older of the two boilers was becoming unusable as it had been confirmed that spare parts were no longer available. He also advised that two of the rooms available for hire were in need of replacement flooring.

Members queried the large balance in the Association accounts. It was clarified that the funds were received from OFSTED to be used by the playgroup.

The playgroup was successful and essential to the local area; however due to the centre only having one set of toilets, the remaining rooms could not be hired out when the playgroup were using the facility.

Members were advised that, should the association be required to replace the boiler in an emergency, the Association would have no remaining funds.

Mr Penfold advised the Board that he had also applied to Hampshire County Council for grant aid. Members acknowledged that any grant from the County Council would be a proportion of any grant from the Borough Council.

It was proposed that the Sub-Board award £3400 to the association and that, should the County Council award £2700, the association would have enough funding to install a new boiler.

It was also requested that the details of the application be kept on file to be reconsidered again should the Sub-Board be in a position to provide funding for the replacement floors.

Members agreed to award £3400.

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

Consideration was given to an application for £5000 towards the cost of flooring for the Association's newly built sports hall.

Mr Clark represented the group and advised that a considerable amount of fundraising had taken place to help finance the hall and that the floor was required to prevent wheelchairs damaging the temporary floor.

He advised that to be able to finish the floor, the group would need £4000.

Members acknowledged that when completed the facility would be well used, by other organisations as well as GADSAD.

It was proposed and agreed to award £4000.

(iii) Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association

Note: Councillor Dickson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to an application for £2225 towards the cost of a replacement hut at Middlecroft allotments.

Mr Jim More represented the Association and advised that the hut was now unsafe and needed replacing. He advised that the hut was the focal point for the users of the site and it was hoped that a concrete garage could be built as a replacement.

Members queried whether there were any proceeds remaining from the sale of land at Camden Allotments. Mr More believed that the use of the money was restricted by the section 106 agreement and could not be used to fund the new store.

Members requested that the application be presented to the Allotment Stakeholders Consultative Group for consideration and that an award of £1675 be provisional, dependant on the outcome of any recommendation by the Allotment Stakeholders Consultative Group.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) A grant of £3400 be awarded to Hardway, Elson and District Community Association;
- (ii) A grant of £4000 be awarded to Gosport and District Sports Association for the Disabled; and

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- (iii) A grant of £1675 be provisionally awarded to Gosport Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association, dependant on the outcome of any recommendation by the Allotment Stakeholders Consultative Group.

The meeting concluded at 7.33pm.

CHAIRMAN