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Grants Sub-Board

7 March 2024

A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD WAS HELD ON 7 MARCH 2024

Councillors Burgess, Chegwyn, Cox (Substituting for Bradley), Mrs Cully and Hutchison

32. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non attendance were received from Councillor Kirsten Bradley, who was substituted by Councillor Kirsty Cox.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hutchison declared

- i) a pecuniary interest in Item 7 para 17 as Trustee and Treasurer of the Elson Community Library and Hub.
- ii) A non pecuniary interest in item 7 para 12 as a Governor of ST. John's primary School
- iii) A non pecuniary interest in item 7 para 13 as Plan B has provided watersports activities to Hardway.

Councillor Burgess declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 paras 14 and late item 1 as he had awarded a grant as a Hampshire County Councillor

Councillor Chegwyn declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 paras 12 & 17 as he had awarded a grant as a Hampshire County Councillor

Councillor Cully declared a non pecuniary interest in item 7 para 11 and she had awarded a grant for the previous bus subsidy.

34. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 were signed as a true and correct record.

35. DEPUTATIONS

There were none

36. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none

37. AWARDS UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS BOARDS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Corporate Policy & Community Safety providing an update on the funding awards and recommendations made by the Sub Board at its previous meetings, including six end of project reports and one interim report. The report also provides an update on the creation of a separate Events Fund.

The Grants Officer updated Members that one additional end of project report had been received from The Marine Festival.

RESOLVED: That the Sub Board:

- i) Noted the six end of project reports and one interim report received since its last meeting
- ii) Noted the status report provided on the previous Sub Board awards and recommendations in Appendix 1
- iii) Noted the creation of an Events Grant Fund.

38. COMMUNITY GRANT FUND APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety providing a summary of each application received to the Community Fund in this funding period in order that Members can determine if they wish to award grant funding for each proposal as set out in this report.

1. Gosport Railway Society

Members agreed to award the sum of £429

2. Incredible Edible Gosport

Members were advised that the grant would be used to fund a four week cookery course for 10 people offering help and advice on creating affordable healthy food. It would result in people leaving their homes, learning about food and its relationship to health, and then sit down and eat together.

In answer to a Member's question, the applicant advised that the participants would be found through social prescribers, the Leisure Centre, Nimrod Centre and social media, and with the interest created by previous such schemes, the demand is there.

Members were advised that the equipment could be used for future schemes and would be portable enough to be taken to any size venue.

Members agreed to award the sum of £600

3. Harbour Cancer Support Centre

Members were advised that the grant would be used to fund a weekly coffee morning off site so not to disturb the therapies taking place at the centre

Members agreed not to make an award

4. Mend & Tend Service- Gosport Voluntary Action

Members were advised that mend & Tend is a vetted worker match up for Gosport people who need support with DIY or gardening. The worker is paid directly by the resident, and for some time there has been no admin fee. Not only has that encouraged more people to use the service, but has cut the need to administer that charge.

Members were supportive of the scheme and were aware of its excellent reputation.

Members agreed to award the sum of £1,500

5. The Village Home Football Club

Members were advised that the grant would be used to fund the increase in pitch fees and enable the club which has been around for 40 years to continue.

Members agreed to award the sum of £1,000

6. Gosport Borough Youth Football Club

Members were advised that this is the largest youth club in Hampshire with 83 teams and 1,000 members.

The applicant advised that the grant would pay for kit, as subs only cover referee fees, DBS checks and pitch fees. Members were assured that the kits are recycled down to younger players, and only get replaced every two years.

Members agreed to award the sum of £1,500

7. TML Football Club

The applicant advise that the club had been started by his grandfather and had grown to 100 players.

Members were advised that the grant would be used to pay pitch fees, tournament costs and equipment.

Members agreed to award the sum of £1,000

8. Disability Union

Members agreed not to make an award

9. Nest & Anchor Events

Members agreed to defer this application to the Events Fund in June

10. St. John's Primary School

Members were advised that the grant would be used to make better use of a building on site. A space would be created as a hub for families of pupils, as well as being used for schemes such as the school nursing team holding sessions on illnesses to bring up attendance levels. With 40% of pupils coming from disadvantaged families, there is a need for community activities and wellbeing courses to improve integration.

The applicant explained that funding from either the Capital budget or the diocese is ring-fenced for maintenance and safeguarding needs.

Members were advised that once established, the renting out of the facility would create much needed funds, although charities may not be charged a hire fee.

Members were very much in favour of the project, and hoped that it would add to the community offer in that area, as seen in other such projects like Lee infant school.

Members agreed to award the sum of £4,365

11. Plan B AP

Members were advised that Plan B offer an alternative learning experience based around the marine industry but also including cycle repair and more recently food and hospitality. A cookery and catering trial project proved popular and proved a demand for more courses, which was hoped to be a route to employability.

Members recognised the fantastic results achieved- a 90-95% attendance and close working with other agencies turning youngsters who could not go to school into good citizens.

Members agreed to award the sum of £2,500

12. Gosport Marine Festival

Members were advised that this application needed to come to the community fund this time round due to timing of the event.

Members were all aware of the event and the longer terms effects it can have on creating interest in employment in the maritime sector.

A member expressed that they would like to see even better integration with the local facilities close to the event.

Members agreed to award the sum of £4,500 to be paid from the Events Fund

13. Citizens Advice

Members were advised that the grant would be used to create and run a training programme on finance and debt prevention aimed at year 9 students. It was hoped that better education in finance matters would prevent the need for debt assistance later in life.

In answer to a Members question, the applicant advised that although money management is on the curriculum, there is sometimes a lack of knowledge and capacity in the schools, and CAB can provide real life case and scenarios which enhance the learning and make the content more relatable.

Members suggested other sources of funding that the applicant could explore.

Members agreed to award the sum of £1,000

14. Gosport Pantry

Members agreed not to make an award

15. Elson Community Library.

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Councillor Hutchison spoke on behalf of the application but took no part in the discussion or decision.

Members were advised that the building was on a full repairing lease and since taking over the building from HCC had spent funds on toilets, the kitchen, windows and wiring amongst other work. The grant would be spent on renewing the fire detection system and installing additional detectors.

Members acknowledged how successful the hub had been at providing a wide range of activities and services for the community.

Members agreed to award the sum of £3,000

RESOLVED: That the Sub Board:

Considered the applications in the report and:

1. A grant of £429 to be paid to Gosport Railway Society
2. A grant of £600 to be paid to Incredible Edible Garden
3. No grant to be paid to Harbour Cancer Support Centre
4. A grant of £1,500 to be paid to Mend & Tend Service
5. A grant of £1,000 to be paid to The Village Home Football Club
6. A grant of £1,500 to be paid to Gosport Borough Youth Football Club
7. A grant of £1,000 to be paid to TML Football Club
8. No grant to be paid to Disability Union
9. No grant to be paid to Nest & Anchor Events
10. A grant of £4,365 to be paid to St.John's Primary School
11. A grant of £2,500 to be paid to Plan B AP
12. A grant of £4,500 to be paid to Gosport Marine Festival from the Events Fund
13. A grant of £1,000 to be paid to Citizens Advice
14. No grant to be paid to the Gosport Pantry
15. A grant of £3,000 to be paid to Elson Community Library & Hub.

39. LATE ITEMS COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

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

RESOLVED: that the Sub Board agreed to take the late items.

1. The Lee Hub Independent Community Library

Members were advised that the doors needed to be replaced and the best solution was a composite material that would still look like the original French Oak.

The applicant advised that the quote included the doors, frame and included removal and recycling of the old doors.

Members agreed to award £2,900 from the heritage Grant Fund.

2. Veterans Can

Members expressed surprise at the high cost of renting Explosion.

Members agreed to award £500 from the Community Fund

40. HERITAGE FUND APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety providing a summary of the five applications received to the heritage Fund in this funding period in order that Members can determine if they wish to award grant funding for the proposals set out in the report.

1. St. John's Arts 2024 Programme Exhibition Panels

The applicant explained that this was an arts programme running in collaboration with the Gosport & Fareham Multi-Academy Trust (in particular Brune Park and Bay House), which had received a grant from the Arts Council England. They produce a programme of arts activities with the focus on young people, but wish to extend into workshops and dance events to include families and the community.

Members were advised that the grant was needed to purchase movable, illuminated screens to enable the mounting of exhibitions in St. John's Church, where the walls are dark and easily damaged.

Members agreed to award the full amount of £3,545

2. The Queen's Hotel 143 Queens Road

The applicant explained he had recently replaced the sash windows in the upper floor and they were working well. The grant will be put towards replacing sash windows in the middle floor and repairs to the third storey roof.

Members were advised that the pub was up and running and its real ales proving popular. It was now hoped to put the whole building back into use for the benefit of the community and in particular essential workers.

In answer to a Member's question, the applicant explained that he had taken on the project in order to preserve the building for future generations and did not expect to make a profit due to the amount of work and investment required.

Members agreed to award the sum of £10,000

3. 2,2A&B, 6 and 6A Church Road Alverstoke.

Members were advised that the grant would go towards the repair and redecoration of the external joinery, including shopfronts and sash windows.

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The applicant gave Members some of the history of the building and explained that she had been the owner since 2004, and it had been a labour of love to maintain a listed building 250 years old. Advice from a conservation specialist had been sought and it would require skilled work to provide a package of repair for the buildings.

In answer to a Members question, the applicant explained that in order to keep the businesses thriving in the village, she kept the rents at a reasonable rate and the amount received does not cover the amount of maintenance required.

Members understood the impact on the surrounding properties should these fall into disrepair.

Members agreed to award £33,500, which was subsequently increased to £40,000.

4. 2 High Street

Members were advised that the brick frontage of the building was constructed of mathematical tiles, which are a specialist item, only manufactured by one or two companies in the country, and it was the delay in obtaining the viability assessment that prevented the applicant from being eligible for HSHAZ funding.

Members were advised that the business leasing the building aspires to increase in size by bringing into use two extra rooms and increasing the staff to 18. This can only happen if the repairs take place and create usable sound spaces.

The Chairman was interested to hear of the buildings history as a brewery with stables and hoped to visit.

Members agreed to award £40,000

5. 25 High Street

Members were advised that the property has a very large walled rear garden, which the applicant was hoping to develop as a garden which would be open to the community as a tool to teach how to grow fruit and herbs that can be used in remedies and cosmetics.

The applicant explained that the grant would be used to replace the crittal windows at first floor height. The ground floor will be developed to create a wholefood café selling organic teas.

Members agreed to award £10,500

RESOLVED: That the Sub Board

Considered the applications in the report and:

1. A grant of £3,545 to be paid to St. John's Arts 2024 Programme
2. A grant of £10,000 to be paid to The Queen's Hotel 143 Queens Road
3. A grant of £40,000 to be paid to 2,2A&B, 6 and 6A Church Road Alverstoke

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4. A grant of £40,000 to be paid to 2 High Street
5. A grant of £10,500 to be paid to 25 High Street.

41. ANY OTHER ITEMS

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 10.10 am