

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Grants Advisory Committee held on
Friday, 27 August 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Jose Hales – Chair
Councillor Sue Ellington – Vice-Chair

Councillors: Dr. Claire Daunton Bill Handley
Peter McDonald

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Aaron Clarke Democratic Services Officer
Jay Clarke Programme Manager
Lesley McFarlane Development Officer (Health Specialist)

Councillor John Williams (Lead Cabinet Member for Finance) was in attendance, by invitation.

Councillors were in attendance remotely, by invitation.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sue Ellington declared a non-pecuniary interest as a director for Care Network UK.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Grants Advisory Committee authorised the Chair to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held Friday 25 June 2021.

4. Community Chest: Funding Applications

The Grants Advisory Committee reviewed all Community Chest applications received between 16 June 2021 and 15th August 2021.

After consideration of these applications, the Committee recommended to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance that:

1. Arthur Rank Hospice (BNTSJXGH) – to be funded at the requested amount of £1,000
2. Foxton Football Club (TXMMDXXG) – to be funded at the requested amount of £1000
3. Gamlingay Schools Out Club (TCSCDBTD) – to be funded the requested amount of £350
4. Hardwick Pre School (PWPDTNMW) - to be funded at the requested amount of £1000
5. Harston Residents Group (JXWFDGDV) - to be funded at the requested amount of £441.36

6. Meldreth Bowls Club (JNLCSPZX) - to be funded at the requested amount of £1000
7. Northstowe Community Wing (ZZGDWWGM) - to be funded at the requested amount of £1000
8. Shelford Feast RMHPJVWZ – deferred, the committee requested further information regarding the income received at the event before making a decision.
9. Wilbraham Memorial Hall (FVZGBTBZ) - to be funded at the requested amount of £999.99

5. Service Support Grant Annual Reports

The committee queried if this was the right time to be making new agreements with the economic uncertainty that existed. It was noted that it would be difficult to come up with a business case for the next three years based on unprecedented circumstances and that there would be little evidence to support any prospective business cases. It was commented that this would allow officers to work with organisations to determine what type of support was needed to allow them to flourish.

It was agreed that Lesley McFarlane would discuss funding for Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) with Heather Wood and Kathryn Hawkes reflect their input and work on the DHRP.

The Grants Advisory Committee recommended the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to:

- I. Note the delivery of all grant programmes within the scope of this report and agree with officers that despite not all organisations meeting performance objectives, no further action would be taken. This was due to the unprecedented economic environment resulting from the ongoing pandemic and not reflective of business as usual.

6. Service Support Grant Funding Agreement Review

It was agreed that Lesley McFarlane would organise a meeting with the Children & Young People's Coordinator at Cambridge County Council to discuss funding arrangements and that an invitation would be sent to Cllr Bill Handley.

The Committee commented that organisations should be asked to estimate and consider annual inflationary increases within their applications for their 3-year grant funding period.

The Grants Advisory Committee recommended the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to:

- I. Extend the existing 3-year grant agreements for another year to allow time for the climate to settle post-pandemic and to enable budget forecasts to be based on more predictable circumstances.
- II. Use the unspent £38K from the Mobile Warden Grant Scheme to begin a new theme specifically to support charities and organisations working to advance the wellbeing of children and young people. This would be a 1-year fund initially (pilot), to support demand resulting from the pandemic. We would then offer a 3-year grant agreement moving forwards beginning in 2023 in line with the Voluntary and Community Service Support grants (see part 1a option above). Suggestions for the aims and objectives of this fund can be found in Appendix B
- III. Continue to fund the Farmland Museum for a further year, to finish in March 2023. Thereafter, following the introduction of a cultural and heritage strategy, invite the Museum to apply for grant funding from the associated budget.
- IV. Review and increase funding to the Voluntary and Community Service Support grants to reflect anticipated ongoing demand and service provision and offering inflationary increases three-yearly at re-launch (2023).

7. Date of next meeting

Friday 24 September 2021 at 1:30pm.

The Meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.
