

# Public Document Pack

## CHARITY COMMITTEE

14 DECEMBER 2015

Present: Councillors Hodges (Chair), Forward and Cartwright. Also in attendance Chris May, the Protector and Andrew Colquhoun Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel.

### 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 21. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 AND MINUTES OF THE HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS FORESHORE CHARITABLE TRUST (FORESHORE TRUST) ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2015

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 and the minutes of the meeting of the Hastings and St. Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust (Foreshore Trust) Annual Public meeting held on 28 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record

### 22. NOTIFICATION OF ANY URGENT ITEMS

None.

### 23. WHITE ROCK BATHS UPDATE

The Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture presented a report to update the committee on the progress of the refurbishment works and lease arrangements at the White Rock Baths.

In addition to investment by the Trust, funding for the project included contributions from Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex County Council, Coastal Communities Fund and the Source. The estimated project costs were revised upwards from an early outline estimate of £822,000 to £1,020,000 following a tendering process.

Additional works to the value of approximately £127,000 were required, bringing the final estimated cost to £1,158k, which is approximately £13% over the revised estimate. This additional cost will be funded by a loan from the Council on similar terms as those agreed for the first Council loan. However, this loan will be written off subject to satisfactory valuation and transfer of ownership to the Council of a small parcel of land that is currently in the Trust's ownership.

Works commenced in March 2015. Additional works, bad weather and delays in power supply connections have led to some delays. Commissioning of new systems is now

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underway, and practical completion of the main works is imminent. The lease to the Source will take effect in early 2016, and there is a planned opening date in the first half of February.

The project has been well received by the public and press has been positive at local and national levels. The Source is planning one international and a number of regional events each year.

Councillor Hodges congratulated all involved in the success of the project.

Councillor Cartwright asked that members be invited to visit the site before it opens. He hoped that the Source will advertise the Foreshore Trust Project and promote their own contribution.

Councillor Forward proposed approval of the recommendations to the report, seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

### **RESOLVED (unanimously) to:**

**To note the progress of the works and imminent leasehold occupation of the premises by The Source**

The reason for this decision was:

In June 2014, the Charity Committee approved a proposal to refurbish the White Rock Baths and lease it to the Source for use as a BMX and skateboard facility, subject to funding support from Hastings Borough Council and East Sussex County Council. The refurbishment works are now nearing completion.

### **24. RE-APPOINTMENT OF GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS**

The Chief Legal Officer presented a report to re-appoint three original members of the Grant Advisory Panel who were initially appointed in 2011.

Recent changes to the Grants Advisory Constitution state that whilst new members would be appointed for a term of three years, the original members could be re-appointed for a second term of four years.

At the Grants Advisory Panel AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> November, Steve Manwaring confirmed he wished to be reappointed for a term of four years. After the AGM Karen Rigby-Faux and Judith Monk confirmed they wished to be re-appointed for a term of three years each.

The Chair thanked the members for their work.

Councillor Hodges proposed approval of the recommendations to the report, seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

### **RESOLVED (unanimously) to:**

**Re-appoint Judith Monk and Karen Rigby-Faux for a further period of three years and Steve Manwaring for a further period of four years.**

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The reason for this decision was:

Originally, the five members were appointed for an indefinite period. This was later changed to two of the original members to retire after two years so that recruitment should be undertaken biennially. This was later further amended as it did not work with an uneven number of members. Two members were subsequently re-appointed in 2013.

### **25. FORESHORE TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Assistant Director – Financial Services & Revenues presented a report to advise Members of the financial position of the Trust for current financial year.

The Charity Committee had two main income streams, namely car parking and property leases/ licences. Financial Monitoring statements were appended to the report which provided detail of the costs being incurred on major projects within the business plan and income.

In March 2015, the Trust had agreed its budget for 2015/16, with a projected surplus of £248,000 (before grants, capital charges and reserves). The Assistant Director – Financial Services & Revenues advised that income is anticipated to be £16K over the original budget and expenditure projections were currently £3K less than the original budget.

Although the programmed spend will continue to reduce the cash balances held by the Trusts, reserves would continue to be maintained above the minimum level identified in the reserves policy, subject to no unexpected calls on the reserves and no reduction in the expected levels of car parking and fee income.

The Assistant Director – Financial Services & Revenues advised that essential repairs to the White Rock Baths continued and as such required flexibility in the budget. The report noted an increase in funding for resurfacing from Robertson Street to the Pier which had been agreed by the Charity Committee. Expenditure on the landscaping/water feature works; newly proposed soakaways for the Winch Road project, and the cost of the kiosk had been excluded from the Business Plan for the present. Spend on safety signage (RNLi signs) and the landscaping/water feature works which requires further approval will not occur until 2016/17.

Councillor Forward proposed approval of the recommendations, as set out in the resolution below, seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) to:**

- 1. To agree the current financial position for 2015/16**
- 2. To agree the revisions to the Business Plan**

The reason for this decision was:

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The Council has the responsibility for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Trust. In doing so it complies with Accounting Codes of Practice and the high standards required for the accounting of Public money.

A surplus in line with budget expectations is anticipated for 2015/16 in respect of ongoing operations.

### **26. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRANT ADVISORY PANEL 2014/15**

The Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel presented his annual report on the work of the Panel.

The Grant Advisory Panel was established in March 2011 to advise on and administer the Foreshore Trust Grants programme.

The report gave an overview of the Panel's activities in 2014/15 relating to the small grants programme and events grants programme, and also included a number of case studies about the beneficiaries of these grants which illustrated the positive impact of the Trust's grants programmes on the town.

The report identified changes to the membership of the Panel. In September 2014, Sandra Garner resigned and Andrew Colquhoun succeeded her as the Chair. In January 2015, Dick Edwards resigned and Charles Sharrod was appointed.

The Committee expressed their thanks to the Grants Advisory Panel for its hard work in dealing with the applications and to the Chair for a comprehensive and informative report. The Committee also thanked officers in the Regeneration team for their support to the Panel.

Councillor Cartwright proposed approval of the recommendations to the report, seconded by Councillor Forward.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Charity Committee acknowledges the work of the Grant Advisory Panel and its Annual Report 2014/15.**

The reason for this decision was:

This is the fourth annual report from the Grant Advisory Panel of the Foreshore Trust. The Grant Advisory Panel was established in March 2011 to advise on and administer the Foreshore Trust Grants programme.

### **27. NOTES OF THE HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS COASTAL USERS' GROUP AGM HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2015**

The notes of the Hastings and St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group AGM held on 17 November were submitted.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the minutes of the meeting of the Hastings and St. Leonards Coastal Users' Group AGM held on 17 November 2015 be received and noted.**

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**28. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)**

None.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.33 pm)

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