

**CHARITY COMMITTEE
26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillors Cooke (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Gurney), Hodges (in the Chair) and Kramer.
Also in attendance Mr Chris May, Protector.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gurney.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to amendment of the ultimate paragraph before the resolution to Minute no. 5 to show that the motion to approve the recommendations to the report in respect of the last ten applications listed was seconded by Councillor Kramer.

11 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT TENDER RESULTS

The Resort Services Manager presented the report of the Head of Amenities and Leisure on the results of the joint procurement of grounds maintenance services for Hastings Borough Council. Using the prices tendered for Hastings BC by the successful contractor, the Foreshore Trust element of a new contract was priced at £16,000. It was suggested that an annual budget of £20,000 would provide sufficient contingency for any non-routine alterations such as additions or changes in bedding schemes or purchase of additional planters.

Mr May asked if the terms of the proposed new contract were comparable to the terms of the existing contract. The Chair replied that the main savings achieved under the proposed contract arose from economies of scale. The Resort Services Manager commented that there was also a slight change in specification for the new contract regarding the number of grass cuts and flower beds.

Councillor Kramer moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Cooke.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Foreshore Trust grounds maintenance be included in the Hastings grounds maintenance contract.

Reasons for the decision: -

Areas of Foreshore Trust land from Pelham car park eastwards to the Stade were included in the current HBC Grounds Maintenance contract with Quadron Services Ltd. This contract had a 7 year term ending in November 2012.

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Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council and Amicus Horizon had procured jointly and agreed to appoint a single contractor for all three organisations in a new 10 year contract from November 2012.

The Charity Committee agreed in December 2011 to include their requirements in the Hastings element of the joint procurement.

12 WHITE ROCK BATHS UPDATE

The Director of Regeneration presented a report updating members on progress and seeking approval for delegated powers to appoint Agents to market the property.

The Coastal Users Group (CUG) met on 30 August and had supported the appointment of Agents to market the premises. Given the significance of the premises it was important to ensure that significant efforts were made to find a constructive use. However, it was not possible to know the potential costs involved until the marketing exercise had been undertaken.

Submissions had been received from two of three agents contacted and these were currently being analysed. At this stage it was not possible to make a recommendation so delegated powers were sought to appoint an Agent on the best terms obtainable to the Charity.

Mr May sought clarification of the next stage, which was supplied by the Chair.

Councillor Cooke moved approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Kramer.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that: -

- (1) the appointment of Agents to conduct a marketing campaign for White Rock Baths is delegated to the Estates Manager in consultation with the Chair; and**
- (2) the Committee consider a further report in roughly six months after the commencement of the marketing exercise.**

Reason for the decision: -

To progress the consideration of options around White Rock Baths.

13 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2011 - 2012

The Head of Finance presented a report on the 2011/12 Annual report and Accounts. The Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust, Trustee's report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2012 were appended to the report. The Head of Finance referred in particular to paragraph 10 of the trustee's report that set out the achievements and performance for this first full financial year for the Council as Trustee of the Foreshore Trust. In answer to a question from Mr May, he agreed to amend the heading, "Trustees" to read "Trustee" in future reports.

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The Council had received an unqualified opinion on the accounts from the external auditor's, Manningtons.

The financial position in 2011/12 showed an actual outturn surplus figure of £203,219. In terms of net current assets (effectively the cash position), the balance was £1,812,142 at 31 March 2012, whilst total funds (which included all assets) amounted to £2,023,309.

Councillor Kramer moved approval of the recommendation to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Cooke.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Annual Report and Accounts 2011-12 be approved.

Reasons for the decision: -

The Council had the responsibility for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Trust. The Council as Trustee, through the Charity Committee, was required to approve the annual report and accounts by the 30 September of each year.

14 FORESHORE TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head of Finance presented a report on the current year's financial position (2012/13).

The Charity Committee had two main income streams from car parking and property leases / licenses. Monitoring statements were appended to the report which provided detail of the costs being incurred on major projects within the business plan. Financial projections were in line with the original budget, as amended by the decision taken by the Committee on 2 July to bring forward expenditure of £205,000 on Pelham Place car park.

The total balances on the Trust accounts at the 31 March 2012 amounted to £2,023,310. The current business plan for the period up to and including 2015/16 identified main programme spend of £1.34m, leaving a balance of £505,000 in the next 3 years. This remained affordable on the basis that the current level of reserves were retained, but that annual surpluses continued to be generated on the trust's trading activities. The Trust had a duty to maintain its assets and only thereafter to consider the use of any surpluses for the benefits of the community.

RESOLVED – that the financial position for 2012/13 be noted and agreed.

Reason for the decision: -

The Council had the responsibility for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Trust.

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15 GRANT ADVISORY PANEL ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Chair of the Foreshore Trust Grants Advisory Panel submitted the first Annual report of the Grant Advisory Panel of the Foreshore Trust. The panel had approved 17 of the 52 applications received, totalling £49,997. Appended to the report were details of some of the projects supported by the Foreshore Trust in Round 1.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Report 2011-12 be noted.

16 SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS FROM CHARITY COMMITTEE

The Chief Legal Officer presented a report seeking to make amendments to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers (Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust) following the Senior Management re-structure that took place in April 2012.

Councillor Cooke proposed a Motion as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Kramer.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the amended Scheme of Delegations to officers. (Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust) be agreed as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

Reason for the decision: -

The current Scheme of Delegations to officers was no longer up to-date following the Senior Management re-structure in April of this year.

17 COASTAL USER GROUP MEETING – 30 AUGUST 2012

The Foreshore Trust items from the minutes of the meeting of the Hastings and St Leonards Coastal User Group held on 30 August were submitted.

RESOLVED – that: -

- (1) the Foreshore Trust items contained in the minutes of the meeting of the Coastal User Group held on 30 August 2012 be noted; and**
- (2) the Coastal User Group is thanked for their continuing work and support.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.29 pm)