

**CHARITY COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Present: Councillors Forward, Hodges (in the Chair) and
Kramer. Also in attendance Mr Chris May, Protector.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared their interests in the minutes as follows:

Kramer	10 - Foreshore Trust Grants - Small Grants (Round 3)	Personal – Chair of The Bridge Community Centre
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9. MINUTES

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2013
be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

10. FORESHORE TRUST – SMALL GRANTS (Round 3)

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy submitted her report from the Grants Advisory Panel. The annual report from the chair of the Panel which summarised the activities of the Panel during the period 2012-13 (Appendix A) and the applications for small grants 2013/14 (Round 3), and the Panel's recommendations in respect of these (Appendix B).

The report made recommendations as to which organisations should be funded and the allocations that should be made to each.

Councillor Kramer referred to the Final Monitoring Report and asked for further detail on each project to include postcodes; amount spent; impact; completion date and the outcome. She asked if members could receive notification of each completed project by email. The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy stated that not all projects had been completed which is why this detail was not contained within the report.

Councillor Forward asked what Hastings United Youth Football Club were offering in addition to other football clubs. The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy said she would look into it and inform the Committee.

Councillor Kramer referred to the length of time between the closing date of an application and the decision, which she said may have a considerable impact on some of the organisations. She suggested monitoring the organisations who have received grant money more than once so they do not become dependent on it.

~~The Protector commented that the remaining balance set aside in 2013/14 for small grants could result in a large amount of expenditure in one year and an under spend in the following year.~~

“The Protector commented that there remained a balance of grant money set aside for Round 3 in 2013/14 amounting to £11,956 which was unlikely under present arrangements to be used as originally intended

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by the Charity Committee. He asked whether it could be made possible for the unspent portion to be carried forward to the following year and added to the amount available in Round 4.”

The Head of Finance advised that further applications could be made in the current year but if at the end of March no further grant applications had been received, monies should be made available for other purposes, rather than potentially being left unused.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy informed the committee that there is a cost attached to grant applications in terms of administering them.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Charity Committee:

- 1. Notes the work carried out by the members of the Panel in considering and advising on applications and protocols in relation to Foreshore Charitable Trust grant support.**
- 2. Takes the recommendations of the Panel into consideration in making decisions on grant support in respect of the applications that have been received and appraised under round 3, with the exception of the Hastings United Football Club which is delegated to the Chair of the Committee in conjunction with the other members of the Committee to approve, subject to more information being received on the use of the grant. If insufficient information is received, this matter will revert to the next meeting of the Charity Committee.**
- 3. That any remaining balance of the budget set aside in 2013-14 for small grants be returned to the Foreshore Trust’s reserves.**

Reason for the decision: -

The Grants Advisory Panel has developed new protocols for dealing with a range of different types of applications for Foreshore Trust support, which have been considered and adopted by the Charity Committee. In addition to this, panel members have received, appraised and made recommendations on a sizeable number of applications for Foreshore Trust support.

If the Charity Committee accepts the Panel’s recommendations in respect of the latest round of grant applications, this would leave a balance of £11,956 in the Foreshore Trust’s 2013-14 budget allocated for small grants.

11. SEAFRONT PLAY AND EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

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The Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure submitted a report on the operation and use of play and outdoor exercise equipment since its installation and to recommend any improvements or changes necessary.

The Resort Services Manager updated the Committee on the implementation of the Seafront Play and Outdoor equipment and its progress to date. The evaluation of the provision of play facilities and exercise trail on Hastings and St Leonards Seafront were appended to the report.

The provision of the equipment and a family friendly environment would encourage new users and greater access to Foreshore Trust land, stimulate physical activity and also support existing facilities for residents and visitors and provide economic benefit.

The new play areas are located at Sea Road, Warrior Square and Pelham and a number of locations on the seafront to form a fitness trail. Since the play equipment has been installed for a year the feedback had been positive and numbers using the sites, particularly Pelham where 250+ have been counted at one time.

A number of improvements involving repairs and adaptations have been necessary due to wear and tear, these were listed in the report.

Councillor Kramer thanked everyone involved on the success of this work.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Charity Committee agree that, subject to sufficient funding being identified, the improvements suggested in the report are considered for the budget and Business Plan for 2014/15.

Reason for the decision: -

The recommended improvements should ensure the continued safe use of the play equipment and reduce the ongoing maintenance necessary as well as making the facilities more appealing.

12. LAND AT MARINE PARADE – HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS ANGLING ASSOCIATION

The Head of Finance presented a report seeking approval to grant a lease of the Hastings St Leonards Angling Association. The proposed lease would be for a further 20 years. The existing 20 year agreement expires in December 2013.

Under the Scheme the Council had to consult with the Coastal User Group and have regard to their recommendations. The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Coastal User Group held on 10 September 2013. The

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Group raised concern that they were not in a position to express support or opposition, since the tenant had an automatic right to renew a lease and the terms of that lease were not shared with the Coastal User Group.

The Head of Amenities, Resorts & Leisure said the tenant had an automatic right to renew the lease. The Coastal Users Group had been consulted but were not privy to the tenancy agreement and therefore did not feel able to comment.

Councillor Hodges asked if anything could be done to ensure the building is kept to a high standard should anything untoward occur. The Head of Finance said this would be covered under the terms of the lease.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that:

- 1. That Charity Committee agrees to renew Hastings & St Leonards Sea Angling Association's lease; and**
- 2. That Charity Committee delegates to the Estates Manager the authority to agree the final terms of the lease.**

Reason for the decision: -

The lease is within the Landlord & Tenant Act and there is no reason not to grant a new agreement thereby securing rental income to the Trust.

13. ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2012/13

The Head of Financial Services presented a report on the 2012/13 Annual report and Accounts. The Hastings and St Leonards Foreshore Charitable Trust, Trustee's report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 were appended to the report.

The financial position in 2012/13 showed an actual outturn surplus figure of £160,000. In terms of net current assets (effectively the cash position), the balance was £1,503,275 at 31 March 2013, whilst total funds (which included all assets) amounted to £1,986,753.

Financial projections were in line with the original budget.

~~The Head of Financial Services referred to the balance sheet projections, which now identifies the cash reserves as the contingency reserve and the main programme reserve. He thanked Mr May for his input with this.~~

The Head of Financial Services referred to the presentation of the balance sheet, (Note: there are no "projections" in these accounts – they refer to past events) which now identifies the cash reserves as the contingency reserve and the main programme reserve. He thanked Mr

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May for his input with this, and Mr May confirmed his agreement with and approval of the new revised presentation.”

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Charity Committee approve the Annual Report and Financial Accounts 2012-13

Reason for the decision: -

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

14. FORESHORE TRUST - FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head of Financial Services presented a report on the current year's financial position (2013/14), and submitted a revised business plan budget for the period up to 2015/16. The report also outlined arrangements regarding the use of surpluses and of financial monitoring and accounting.

The two main income streams are 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.

The Head of Finance advised of an amendment to the report in Paragraph 4, the words “operating surplus of £180k” should read “operating surplus of £80k”.

The total balances on the Trusts accounts on 31 March 2013 amounted to £1,987K. With an estimated operating surplus of £80K in 2013/14 (before grants) and programmed expenditure now of some £673K in 2013/14, the estimated cash balance at 31 March 2014 is £878K.

It was noted that the reduction in anticipated surplus from the £144K budgeted to £80K. The position will be improved by the reduced allocation of grants.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that the Charity Committee note and agree the financial position for 2013/14

Reason for the decision: -

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

15. COASTAL USERS GROUP

The Foreshore Trust items from the minutes of the meetings of the Coastal Users Group held on 10 September 2013 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings of the Coastal Users Group held on 10 September 2013 be received and noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.46pm)