

CHARITY COMMITTEE

30 JUNE 2014

Present: Councillors Hodges (Chair), Forward and Cartwright

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Westley and Mr Chris May, The Protector

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2014

RSEOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6. FORESHORE TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head of Finance presented a report to advise the committee on the current year's financial position and to agree revisions to the Trust's business plan and review the reserves policy.

The budget had been agreed in March 2014, and a surplus of £250,000 had been projected for 2014/15 financial year. The Head of Finance advised that income and expenditure projections were currently in line with the budget. The business plan had been revised to reflect that the Charity Committee had approved a scheme for the redevelopment of White Rock Baths as an indoor arena for BMX and skateboard competitions. It was likely that further revisions would be required to the business plan, depending on the extent of external funding for the scheme.

The Charity Committee was required to approve a reserves policy and risk register each year. Members noted that the reserves policy was based on guidance from the Charity Commission. The report stated that reserves of £1,067,000 would be retained as at 31 March 2015, which was above the suitable level identified in the reserves policy.

A copy of the risk register had been appended to the report. Discussion took place regarding the potential risks, and efforts to mitigate their impact on the Foreshore Trust. The White Rock Baths scheme would also be added to the risk register, once the external funding package had been confirmed.

Councillor Forward moved approval of the recommendations, as set out in the Head of Finance's report, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that –

1) the current financial position for 2014/15 be agreed;

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- 2) **the business plan be revised to accommodate additional works and contributions being made in respect of the White Rock Baths (subject to external funding being confirmed);**
- 3) **the risk register be agreed, and;**
- 4) **the reserves policy be agreed**

Reason for the decision: -

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 was generated in 2013/14 in line with expectations and a surplus in line with budget expectations is anticipated for 2014/15 in respect of ongoing operations.

The reserves policy is reviewed on an annual basis and is undertaken against the uncertainties that continue in the economy.

7. **SEAFRONT BYELAW REVIEW**

The Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure presented a report to seek the Charity Committees support for a review and replacement of existing byelaws for the seafront and promenade.

A working group of the Coastal Users Group, which included representatives of key stakeholders, had been looking at the management of coastal leisure activities. It was necessary to review the current byelaws, which had been in place for a number of years, as many had become outdated and inappropriate.

The report recommended initiating a review, which would replace the existing byelaws with two model byelaws to cover a range of activities on the promenade and seashore. A copy of the draft model byelaws was circulated at the meeting. The report set out a timetable for the review process and adoption of the new byelaws. The review would include extensive consultation with the Foreshore Trust, Coastal Users Group as well as with sports, leisure and other user groups. Following adoption by Full Council, the draft byelaws would then be subject to formal advertising before taking effect in April 2015.

Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the recommendations, as set out in the Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure's report, which was seconded by Councillor Forward.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that –

- 1) **the Charity Committee support a review and replacement of our many, old existing byelaws with the model byelaws, tailored for Hastings' requirements, and;**

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- 2) **the Charity Committee support the recommendations of the Zoning Working Group to include general activities listed in the proposed model byelaws within the report.**

Reason for the decision: -

The current range of existing byelaws for the seafront and foreshore are outdated and in some cases irrelevant. A preliminary review has been undertaken and we are proposing to adopt modern model byelaws with modifications for additional activities we wish to include.

The report sets out the detail of the activities to be included in the model byelaws for onward informal and formal consultation. Although the Foreshore Trust does not have the power to make byelaws the Council is consulting with the Charity Committee to seek its support as landowner and major stakeholder.

8. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COASTAL USERS GROUP HELD ON 10 JUNE 2014**

The minutes of the Coastal Users Group meeting held on 10 June 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Coastal Users Group meeting held on 10 June 2014 be received and noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.34 pm)