

## CHARITY COMMITTEE

27 JULY 2015

Present: Councillors Hodges (Chair), Cartwright and Davies. Also in attendance Mr Chris May, The Protector.

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Forward

### 1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23 MARCH 2015

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record

### 2. WHITE ROCK AREA PROMENADE IMPROVEMENTS

The Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture presented a report which provided background information to a proposed scheme of promenade improvements at the White Rock.

The report noted that a number of significant developments were already underway in this area, including the restoration of Hastings Pier and the redevelopment of the White Rock Baths. The new attractions would result in an increase in footfall in the White Rock area, and it was therefore essential to explore opportunities to improve the area visually and provide for greater community use which would support the economic regeneration of the seafront.

Following a successful bid for Coastal Communities Funding by Hastings Borough Council, a package of improvements for the area had been developed; this included public realm repairs, a new set of access steps to the beach and the creation of decked areas with provision for pop up trading stalls. The promenade would also become a shared use area for cyclists and pedestrians. The area will also be aesthetically improved by the redecoration of the White Rock Baths and additional planting. Further proposals for a new water feature and kiosk may be undertaken separately, if they are affordable to the Foreshore Trust. The funding for the project included contributions from the Foreshore Trust, Hastings Borough Council and the Coastal Communities Fund. The report requested additional funding, above the allocation set out in the business plan, of £18,000 from the Foreshore Trust to cover the cost of surfacing.

The proposals had been well received at a public consultation and were supported by the Coastal Users Group. It was anticipated that a planning application for the works would be submitted in early July 2015, which if approved, would enable works to begin on site in early November 2015.

Councillor Cartwright proposed an amendment to recommendation 5 of the report, seconded by Councillor Davies, as follows “delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Financial Services and Revenues, in consultation with the Chair to proceed, or otherwise, with recommendations 3 and 4 once the financial position is confirmed”. The proposed amendment was agreed by the committee.

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

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that:**

- 1) Support be given to proposed improvements subject to planning consent;**
- 2) An additional £18k is approved to supplement the existing business plan allocation towards the scheme for surfacing costs;**
- 3) An option to improve the White Rock water feature is considered after the tendered prices are received and there is more certainty over the Trust's financial position;**
- 4) An option for invest to save funding for a kiosk is considered after an independent commercial appraisal and marketing exercise, and;**
- 5) Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director of Financial Services and Revenues, in consultation with the Chair, to proceed or otherwise with recommendations 3 and 4 once the financial position is confirmed**

The reason for this decision was:

Hastings Borough Council successfully bid for Coastal Communities Fund grant funding for a range of initiatives to promote a cultural trail and support economic growth along the seafront.

The bid included a proposed scheme to make improvements to the public realm on the promenade area of White Rock to support the ongoing investment in the White Rock Baths and Hastings Pier.

Support is required from the Foreshore Trust for the proposal and to provide match funding for parts of the scheme.

### **3. FINANCE REPORT**

The Assistant Director of Financial Services and Revenues presented the finance report to the committee. The report included the draft financial position of the Trust in 2014/15 as well as the current year's financial position. The committee was also required to review the Trust's business plan, risk register and reserves policy.

The committee was advised that the draft accounts for 2014/15 indicated that the Trust had exceeded its operating surplus by £25,000, the final accounts were due to be reported to Charity Committee at its September meeting. The Trust's income and expenditure for 2015/16 remained in line with the budget projections, although it was necessary to update the business plan for 2015/16 to reflect the additional funding from the Trust to the White Rock area promenade improvements project.

Discussion took place regarding the risk register, which the Trust maintained to help inform its reserves policy. The committee agreed that the risk associated with item 10 on the register, loss of key staff, should be the same as the council's corporate risk register. It was agreed to amend the impact of item 12 on the risk register, budget settings, from medium to high. The likelihood of item 16 on the risk register, White

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Rock Baths, was increased from medium to high, to reflect the complexity of the project. The report recommended continuing to maintain the level of reserves at £690,000.

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

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that:**

- 1) The current financial position for 2015/16 be agreed;**
- 2) The risk register be agreed (appendix 4 to the report)**
- 3) The reserves policy be agreed (appendix 5 to the report)**

The reason for this decision was:

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

The reserves policy is reviewed on an annual basis and is undertaken against the uncertainties that are identified within the risk register and the general economic environment.

#### **4. ADVENTURE GOLF AND MARINE PARADE PROMENADE IMPROVEMENTS**

The Assistant Director of Financial Services and Revenues presented a report which sought approval for improvement works to be undertaken by the tenant of the Adventure Golf site, and to grant authority for the necessary agreements to enable the works to happen.

The Trust had been approached by Arnold Palmer Putting Courses Ltd (APPC), the tenants of the Adventure Golf site, with proposals for improvements within the area of lease and adjoining land owned by the Trust. The improvements included resurfacing the promenade area and adding planters and public seating, whilst still maintaining access to the existing cycle route. The existing café would also be extended. The Coastal Users Group had been supportive of the proposals when they considered the matter at their meeting in June 2015.

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

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that:**

- 1) Charity Committee agrees to grant consent to the works on the leased area, and;**
- 2) Charity Committee delegates to the Estates Manager the authority to agree terms of a licence to carry out works on Trust land and a maintenance agreement**

The reason for this decision was:

The proposals will improve the area for the benefit of the public at no current or future cost to the Trust.

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5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COASTAL USERS GROUP HELD ON 9 JUNE 2015**

The extract of Foreshore Trust items from the minutes of the Coastal Users Group meeting held on 9 June 2015 were submitted. Councillor Cartwright proposed that the minutes be received and noted, which was seconded by Councillor Davies.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the minutes of the meeting of the Coastal Users Group held on 9 June 2015 be received and noted**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.52 pm)