

CHARITY COMMITTEE

29 MARCH 2021

Present: Councillor O'Callaghan (Chair), Councillor Batsford (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Rogers. James Cook (The Protector). Andrew Colquhoun (GAP Chair)

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

81. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARITY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Charity Committee meeting held on 13th July 2020 be approved as a true record.

82. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None received.

83. FORESHORE TRUST SMALL & EVENTS GRANTS ROUND 4 2021-22 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report to present the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Round 4 2021-22. A total of £52,499 is proposed to be allocated, which is made up of the £45,000 budgeted for the round and the underspend of £7,499 from two previous awards that were not contracted.

The Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel presented his report detailing the applications and recommendations.

Thanks were extended to the GAP for their time and effort put into assessing the application. The GAP chair also extended his thanks to the officers for their assistance and for making the process as smooth as possible.

Councillor Batsford proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. Consider for approval the Small and Events Grants Round 4 2021-22 recommendations of the GAP as set out in Appendix 1 (with projects listed in Appendix A)
2. Agree budget provision as detailed in Appendix A.

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Reasons for Recommendations

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for Small and Event Grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the available 2021-22 budget.

84. FORESHORE TRUST LARGE GRANT PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS

The Assistant Director, Regeneration and Culture, submitted a report to present the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Large Grant Programme recommendations. Urgency provisions were utilised for this report, and it was agreed earlier, due to the requirement to notify successful grant applicants as soon as possible in time for them to set up new services for the beginning of the upcoming financial year. Although the report had previously been agreed, the budget allocation is still subject to agreement of the budget report which is to be received later in this meeting.

The Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel presented his report detailing the applications and recommendations.

The committee affirmed the decision which had previously been made under urgency provisions.

85. HASTINGS LIFEGUARD CONTRACT

The Marketing and Major Projects Manager submitted a report giving an update on the performance of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). The report also recommends that Hastings Borough Council and the Foreshore Trust enter into a new three year agreement with the RNLI, for them to provide a beach lifeguard service for the 2021-2023 seasons.

Councillor Rogers proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. That HBC and the Foreshore Trust enter into a new three year agreement with the RNLI for the RNLI to provide a beach lifeguard service at Hastings for the 2021 – 2023 (inclusive) seasons and they are appointed without going through the competitive tendering procedures, subject to cabinet agreement.
2. That authority is delegated to the assistant director of regeneration and culture or her nominee to conclude the necessary legal agreements.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. Because the RNLI, the 'gold standard' of lifesaving at sea, is able to provide a better service at better value than we can provide in-house.

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86. FORESHORE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS 2019-20

The Chief Accountant submitted a report presenting the 2019/20 annual report and final accounts for the committee's consideration. It has not been possible to present this report sooner due to the reliance of the Foreshore Trust's external auditors, Manningtons, on the external auditors of Hastings Borough Council's own accounts and the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent knock on impacts on the auditors workload. The Foreshore Trust's auditors didn't raise any significant issues with the accounts.

Councillor Rogers proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To agree the Annual Report and Financial Accounts 2019-20

Reasons for Recommendations

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.

The Council as Trustee, through the Charity Committee, is authorised to approve the annual report and accounts which is normally done by the 30th September each year but the outbreak of Covid19 meant an extension was required and the accounts will now be presented for approval on 29th March 2021.

87. FORESHORE TRUST 2021/22 BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

The Chief Accountant submitted a report presenting the current year's financial position and to determine the budget for 2021/22. The current financial situation has been impacted heavily by COVID-19 and the lockdowns. Further updates have been received today and the shortfall on parking income is likely to be £392,000 against the budget, which will impact future years. Efforts have been made by officers to reduce expenditure and minimise risk, mitigate costs and loss of income, although additional costs have been incurred for cleaning, keeping public conveniences open and ensuring COVID-19 restrictions are adhered to.

Due to the continued uncertainty around the future levels of income, there will be continued impact into the next financial year. Therefore, approval is only being sought for this year's budget, and not future years, as the full year impact is still unknown. A review of all Foreshore Trust areas will be undertaken by officers. The risk register and the Trust's plan will be updated and presented to the next committee meeting.

Councillor Batsford proposed a motion to approve the recommendations in the report, seconded by Councillor Rogers.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To agree the current financial position for 2020/21.

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2. Approve the budget for 2021/22.
3. Financial monitoring reports continue to be presented to each meeting of the Charity Committee.
4. A full Financial and Business Plan review of future years be conducted once Final Financial position for 2020/21 is confirmed.
5. No increase in car parking charges for 2021/22.

Reasons for Recommendations

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 deficit above budget expectations is anticipated for 2020/21 in respect of operating income and expenses. Once grant and project costs are taken into account a deficit of £392,000 is anticipated against a budgeted deficit of £48,000.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:25pm)