

## CHARITY COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillors Webb (Chair), Batsford (Vice-Chair) and Rogers. James Cook (The Protector). Mary Kilner, Monitoring Officer.

### 106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

### 107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Minute	Interest
Webb	109. Foreshore Trust Small and Events Round 5 and Large Grants Golden Thread Recommendations	Personal – Trustee of His Place Church which received a grant from the Foreshore Trust in a previous round
Rogers	109. Foreshore Trust Small and Events Round 5 and Large Grants Golden Thread Recommendations	Personal – Trustee and Deputy Chair of Fellowship of St Nicholas which has received grants from the Foreshore Trust in the past
Webb	109. Foreshore Trust Small and Events Round 5 and Large Grants Golden Thread Recommendations	Personal – Has been involved in the Garden Full of Cultural Delights project since 2010
Webb	109. Foreshore Trust Small and Events Round 5 and Large Grants Golden Thread Recommendations	Personal – Member of East Sussex County Council Health and Wellbeing Board

### 108. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARITY COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved as a true record.

### 109. FORESHORE TRUST SMALL AND EVENTS ROUND 5 AND LARGE GRANTS GOLDEN THREAD RECOMMENDATIONS

The External Funding Manager introduced a report to present the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of applications for the Small and Events Grants Round 5 2022- 23 and to introduce the Golden Thread update report from Hastings Voluntary Action.

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Andrew Colquhoun, Chair of the Grants Advisory Panel, was presented and introduced the GAP recommendations for the Small and Events Grants Round 5. Andrew thanked the External Funding Manager and the Foreshore Trust Compliance and Liaison Officer for their support during the grants process. A total of 64 enquiries were received and by the closing date, 39 applications were submitted. 1 application was ineligible meaning that 38 applications with a total amount requested of £197,737 were assessed.

The GAP acknowledged that the majority of the applications showed merit, but they were mindful of the limited budget and therefore selected those they considered to be the strongest in terms of the criteria. Following a full assessment process, GAP members agreed to the recommendations shown in Appendix A of the report.

A total of £45,000 has been allocated in the recommendations, with a further £45,000 to be allocated following a further call for applications later in the year.

Steve Manwaring, Chief Executive of Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA) spoke in regard to the Foreshore Trust golden thread.

As part of its Large Grants Programme (LGP) the Foreshore Trust allocated an additional £20,000 per annum over 2 years related to the theme of mental health. HVA were asked to facilitate a process to enable all LGP recipients to work collaboratively on a mental health project. Through a series of workshops HVA have developed and costed a project plan. The report outlining the process and proposals was agreed unanimously by the Grants Advisory Panel.

The Committee welcomed the reports and thanked Andrew and Steve for their work.

### **RESOLVED (unanimously):**

#### **Small and Events Grants Round 5 2022- 23:**

- 1. To consider the Grant Advisory Panel's (GAP) recommendation to award small and events grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A.**
- 2. Agree grant funding for this round at £45,000**

#### **Large Grants Golden Threads Recommendations:**

- 3. To note the comments of the Grants Advisory Panel who considered this application at their meeting of 26th January 2022**
- 4. To consider the proposal in light of those comments**
- 5. To delegate to the assistant director, regeneration and culture, or her nominee, in consultation with the chair of the charity committee to**

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### **develop and enter into a contractual and monitoring framework with Hastings Voluntary Action to enable the activity to commence April 2022**

Reasons:

1. The recommended organisations for grant funding have been selected following an open application process and awarded to those considered by the GAP to best meet the Foreshore Trust's aims and objectives.
2. The recommendations enable the Charity Committee to commission activity to commence in April 2022 enabling the final large grant to be given and its ambition to enable local service delivery organisations to respond to clients with Mental Health issues to be fulfilled.

### **110. FORESHORE TRUST FINANCE REPORT**

The Chief Accountant presented a report to advise members of the Committee on the current year's financial position (2021/22) and to determine the budget for 2022/23.

The financial position for 2021/22 is looking healthier than previously expected and this is very much dependant on parking income. The budget for 2022/23 has been produced and the allocation for grants will be reviewed if there is more surplus available towards the end of the financial year. Budget forecasts show the Trust will not be in a surplus position but it is hoped this will change with a revised business plan which is currently in development.

A question was asked regarding the Foreshore Trust's reserves. The Chief Accountant confirmed that once the final figures have been signed off and confirmed by the external auditors there will be a clearer position on the reserves. The minimum reserve balance of £900,000 remains.

The Chief Accountant informed the Committee that further resourcing from the financial team has been put in place for the Foreshore Trust. It is hoped that this will help in financial reporting to the Charity Committee.

In response to a question regarding approval of the final accounts by the Charity Commission the Chief Legal Officer confirmed that she is in conversation with the Charity Commission regarding an extension for the submission of the accounts.

#### **RESOLVED (unanimously):**

- 1. To agree the current financial position for 2021/22.**
- 2. Approve the budget for 2022/23.**
- 3. Financial monitoring reports continue to be presented to each meeting of the Charity Committee.**

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**4. A full Financial and Business Plan review of future years be conducted once Final Financial position for 2021/22 is confirmed.**

**5. Car parking charges for 2022/23 increase in line with Hastings Borough Council's approved policy.**

Reasons:

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 in excess of budget expectations is anticipated for 2021/22 in respect of operating income and expenses. Once grant and project costs are taken into account a surplus of £49,000 is anticipated against a budgeted deficit of £298,000.

### **111. MINUTES OF COASTAL USERS GROUP**

The Marketing and Major Projects Manager introduced the minutes of the last Coastal Users Group (CUG) meeting.

The only item raised by the CUG which is of direct relevance is in regards to the budget. The Protector was at the CUG meeting and has discussed the points raised with the Chief Accountant.

The Chair thanked the CUG for their continued support.

### **112. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public were in attendance for public question time.

The Chief Legal Officer informed the Committee that some written questions had been received. The Committee agreed that the Chief Legal Officer should respond to the questions in writing.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.40pm)