

CHARITY COMMITTEE

18 JULY 2022

Present: Councillors Roark (Chair), Batsford, Hilton, James Cook (Protector)

In attendance: Kit Wheeler (Section 151 Officer), Kevin Boorman(Marketing and Projects Manager), Mary Kilner (Chief Legal Officer in attendance on Teams)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Victoria Conheady

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARITY COMMITTEE

Councillor Hilton asked regarding written questions which had been submitted at the last meeting. The Chief Legal Officer responded that the response will be provided at the latest by the following day and the answers to the questions will be circulated to the Committee. The Chief Legal Officer confirmed that a response had already been sent to the questions raised by Bernard McGinley and the response would also be circulated to the Committee.

Councillor Roark proposed approval of the last set of Minutes, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Charity Committee Meeting held on 21st March 2022 be approved as a true record.

4. MINUTES OF COASTAL USERS GROUP (21ST JUNE 2022)

The Marketing and Major Projects Manager explained that the Coastal Users Group (CUG) met on the 21st June. The papers for today's meeting have been circulated to CUG with no comments received.

The Committee noted no comments were received for the Minutes.

5. FORESHORE TRUST FINANCE REPORT

The Chief Finance Officer gave a verbal update. The Q4 position was more positive financially than had been budgeted for. The figures are still being finalised, but the parking income has been better than budgeted for with more people coming to Hastings having a positive impact.

The budget for 2022-23 is passed on an old Business Plan. Councillors and officers agreed to update this plan.

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Grant Thornton (Borough Auditors) are expected to bring a report to the Audit Committee next week which will mean the Trust can close the 2019-2020 accounts.

The Councillors asked regarding the timeline of the new business plan? The Chief Finance officer replied the plan is drafted by the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Culture. This is then costed up with the Finance team.

The Protector asked if the AGM is still going to happen in September? The Chief Finance Officer answered that the reports will probably not be ready by September. The Chief Legal Officer suggested the date for the AGM to be reviewed nearer the time with an Annual Meeting and update held instead. It would then be followed by an AGM.

6. APPOINTMENT OF GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER

The Chief Legal Officer explained Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) must be able to have enough members to assess and evaluate grant applications under the Scheme dated 13 January 2011. The Report recommends the appointment of Christopher Cormack to the Panel for a period of three years with immediate effect and confirm and renew the appointment of Susan Coop for a further period of three years. It is recommended to run a further recruitment campaign to attract more volunteers to the Panel as soon as possible to have a pool of approved candidates.

Councillor Roark proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Batsford

RESOLVED (Unanimously)

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To appoint Christopher Cormack to the Grants Advisory Panel for a period of three years with immediate effect.**
- 2. To confirm and renew the appointment of Susan Coop to the Grants Advisory Panel for a further period of three years.**
- 3. To give delegated authority to the Council's Chief Legal Officer to embark on a further recruitment drive for more volunteers to be considered for the Grants Advisory Panel**

Reasons

The Grants Advisory Panel must be able to have enough members to assess and evaluate grant applications under the Scheme dated 13 January 2011.

7. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

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None

8. URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee celebrated the Midsummer Fish Festival and gave thanks to the Kevin Boorman and his team following overnight damage to the stalls caused by the wind.

The Committee highlighted the dangers of swimming by the Harbour Arm and the possibility of having some signage.

Councillors asked if it's possible at the end of the season to arrange to meet the beach teams and the people who work on behalf of the Foreshore Trust.

Councillor Hilton asked if the Constitution could be changed so that public questions can be had at all Charity Committee meetings. The Chief Legal Officer responded that she would consider and discuss her proposal with the Protector.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.26 pm)