

CHARITY COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors Cannan (Chair), Rogers (Vice-Chair) and Roark. James Cook, The Protector.

In attendance: Amy Terry (Property and Commercial Assets Manager), Danny Saxby (Democratic Services). In attendance remotely: Victoria Conheady (Deputy Chief Executive – Director of Place), Mary Kilner (Chief Legal Officer) and Rita O'Mahoney (Chief Accountant).

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Batsford and Kit Wheeler, Chief Finance Officer. Councillor Roark was present as a substitute for Councillor Batsford.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CHARITY COMMITTEE

James Cook asked that the minutes be amended to show he was present at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED – subject to the above amendment, that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 be approved as a true record.

26. STADE HALL

The Property and Commercial Assets Manager presented a report to update the Charity Committee on the Expressions of Interest process and to recommend that Spun Glass Theatre be appointed to manage Stade Hall.

Stade Hall has been managed and operated by East Sussex College Hastings since January 2019. Their agreement comes to an end on 6 January 2024, and they advised they did not wish to renew.

Four Expressions of Interests were received, and one was discounted for non-compliance. The remaining three were scored and Organisation B (Spun Glass Theatre) scored the highest.

The report was sent to the Coastal Users' Group (CUG) for information, and it was agreed that officers would provide a verbal update at this meeting. The Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society asked if there will be any activities to promote sustainable fishing and officers proposed that the two organisations hold discussions

CHARITY COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2023

on that if the proposal is agreed. Another query was raised about the scoring, and it was confirmed this was done independently of CUG and the Charity Committee.

It was confirmed that planning consent will be required for some of the proposed uses and Spun Glass Theatre are ready to put in a planning application if their appointment is agreed.

Councillor Rogers noted that the recommendation reads, 'The Spun Glass Theatre and appointed...' and proposed an amendment to replace 'and' with 'are'.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, subject to the amendment above, seconded by Councillor Roark.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

That Spun Glass Theatre are appointed to manage Stade Hall subject to planning, due diligence and contractual processes.

Reasons:

Spun Glass Theatre offered the most robust business case and have the organisational capacity to deliver the management of the Hall.

27. FINANCE MONITORING REPORT TO PERIOD 4 2023/24

The Chief Accountant presented a report to advise members of the Committee on the current year's financial position (2023/24).

Investment income is forecast to be £12,000 over budget as a result of favourable interest rates. Car parking income is forecast to be £90,000 more than budgeted. Rental income is expected to be in line with the budget. Expenditure is expected to be £23,000 under budget, mainly due to the new maintenance contract. The forecast operating surplus for the year is £382,000.

The Protector noted that the £79,000 variance in the surplus for 2023-24 should read £125,000.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Roark.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To agree the current financial position for 2023/24.

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.

The Trust is reporting a surplus for the 2023/24 financial year in respect of operating income and expenses of £382,000.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

16 NOVEMBER 2023

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.11pm)