

CHARITY COMMITTEE

29 SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Councillors Hodges (Chair), Forward, May and Cartwright (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Westley). Also in attendance, Mr Chris May, the Protector.

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Westley

9. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10. FORESHORE TRUST SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy presented a report to introduce the recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of projects to be funded by round 4 of the Foreshore Trust Small Grants Programme 2014/15.

The purpose of the small grants programme was to assist with the improvement of the economic and financial environment in the Borough and to support organisations delivering a range of activities for local people.

The Chair of the GAP presented the panel's recommendations to the committee. The small grants programme had been advertised from April 2014 in a variety of web pages and printed publications, and a total of 41 applications for funding had been received. Each grant application had been assessed against the Foreshore Trust's objectives and scored by two members of the GAP, and then jointly reviewed by a meeting of the full panel. The panel had recommended approving eighteen grant applications for the 2014/15 programme, totalling £50,000. Each of the successful applications would be subject to monitoring of take up and impact of the project, in line with the Foreshore Trust's equalities policy.

Members of the committee thanked the GAP for their efforts in assessing the applications for funding.

Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the recommendations to the report which was seconded by Councillor Forward.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Grant Advisory Panel's recommendations to award small grants to the organisations shown in Appendix A of the Chair's report be approved.

The reason for this decision was:

The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) carefully reviewed all 41 applications received for grant support and has made its recommendations following a thorough assessment involving all members of the panel. The decision on grant funding rests with the

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Charity Committee. The panel's recommendations can be funded from the allocated budget.

11. FORESHORE TRUST - FINANCIAL REPORT

The Head of Finance presented a report to advise Members of the financial position of the Trust for current financial year.

In March 2014, the Trust had agreed its budget for 2014/15, with an estimated surplus of £250,000. Due to an increased rental income, the surplus was now projected to be £258,000.

The report also gave an overview of changes to the Foreshore Trust's business plan. The Charity Committee had recently approved a scheme for the redevelopment of White Rock Baths, and the business plan had been amended to reflect this decision. Further revisions may be necessary in the future, depending on the final external funding package for the project.

Although the programmed spend would continue to reduce the cash balances held by the Trusts, reserves would continue to be maintained above the minimum level identified in the reserves policy.

Councillor Forward moved approval of the recommendations, as set out in the Head of Finance's report, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the current financial position for 2014/15 be agreed.

The reasons 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 Accounting Codes of Practice and the high standards required for the accounting of public money.

A surplus was generated in 2013/14 in line with expectations and a surplus in line with budget expectations is anticipated for 2014/15 in respect of ongoing operations.

12. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

The Head of Finance presented a report for the committee to consider the 2013/14 annual report and financial accounts.

A surplus of £174,000 had been achieved in 2013/14, which was in line with projections. The report identified key areas of income and expenditure for the Trust over the previous financial year. The main programme reserve was £627,015.

The council had received an unqualified opinion on the accounts from its external auditors. The Charity Committee, on behalf of the council as Trustee, was required to approve the annual report and financial accounts by 30 September 2014.

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Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the recommendations, as set out in the Head of Finance's report, which was seconded by Councillor Forward.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the annual report and financial accounts for 2013/14 be approved.

The reason for this decision was:

The council has responsibility for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Trust.

The council as Trustee, through the Charity Committee, is required to approve the annual report and accounts by the 30 September each year.

13. FORMER LADIES TOILETS UNDER PROMENADE AT VERULAM PLACE

The Head of Finance presented a report on a proposed new lease for the former ladies toilets at Verulam Place to Hastings Pier Charity (HPC).

HPC intended to implement a seasonal events strategy, to generate income for the development of the pier, including the pavilion restaurant and the new visitor centre, and to fund the ongoing maintenance of the structure. The toilets, which had been closed to the public since 2002, were well located for use by HPC to support this activity, including providing storage and facilities for events staff. HPC had already secured a lease of the former gentlemen's toilets nearby.

The report proposed leasing the former ladies toilets to HPC on coterminous terms to the former gentlemen's toilets.

The Coastal Users Group had supported the proposal at their meeting on 9 September 2014.

Councillor Hodges proposed an amendment to the recommendation of the report, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Cartwright.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Charity Committee delegate authority to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and the Head of Finance to agree a lease of the former ladies toilets to Hastings Pier Charity (HPC)

The reason for this decision was:

The terms of the proposed lease are considered to be less than the best price obtainable in compliance with the exceptions under the Charities Act 2011.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COASTAL USERS GROUP HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes of the Coastal users Group meeting held on 9 September 2014 were submitted.

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RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Coastal Users Group held 9 September 2014 be received and noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.35 pm)