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CHARITY COMMITTEE

23 MARCH 2015

Present: Councillors Hodges (Chair), Forward, Cartwright. Also in attendance Mr Chris May, The Protector.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Monica Adams-Acton and Andrew Colquhoun.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

31. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None.

32. FORESHORE TRUST EVENTS GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS 2015/16

The Regeneration Manager presented the report of the Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy to introduce the recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) in respect of the applications for Events Grants 2015-16.

Consideration was given to the applications for funding recommended for support by the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP).

There was an error in the wording of the report, paragraph 5, the word 'twelve', was corrected to the word 'nine'. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that twelve applications for funding had been received, of which GAP had recommended nine for grant support.

The report also proposed that a further £3,315 from the unspent event grants budget for 2015/16 be added to the Small Grants Programme due to be launched in April 2015.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Charity Committee:

- 1) Accept the events grants recommendations of the GAP as set out in the report by Andrew Colquhoun (Appendix 1) to award the events grants to the organisations as shown in Appendix A and that the remaining un-allocated balance be added to the Foreshore Trust Small Grants Programme due to be launched in April 2015.**

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The reason for this decision was:

The Grant Advisory Panel has appraised the merits of the applications received for events grant support and has made a number of recommendations for grant awards that can be funded from the 2015 – 16 budgets. These were rigorously assessed with detailed discussion on each application at the GAP meeting on 10th February 2015.

33. FORESHORE TRUST 2015/16 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORT

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

In March 2014, the Trust had agreed its budget for 2014/15, with a projected surplus of £250k. Due to additional expenditure in respect of the Foreshore, Stade Hall and Open Space and the Multi use Games Area, the surplus was now projected to be £226k.

The report stated that a revision to the business plan had occurred following the expenditure on White Rock Baths moving from 2014/15 to 2015/16 and the Winch Road upgrade had been reprofiled to 2015/16. Furthermore, two new schemes were added to the business plan (i) Resurfacing from Robertson Street to the Pier, and (ii) Landscaping/fountain works. It is expected that both schemes will bring in additional funding. A full report to the committee will be required before proceeding with either scheme. The Head of Finance advised that in determining the budget, car parking charges will increase by 5% as agreed; these charges will be fixed for 2 years.

Although the programmed spend will continue to reduce the cash balances held by the Trust, reserves would continue to be maintained above the minimum level identified in the reserves policy, subject to no unexpected calls on the reserves and no reduction in the expected levels of car parking and fee income.

The report outlined the total income budgeted at £1,136k with expenditure, (excluding capital charges), at £888k – a surplus of £248k for 2015/16. The estimated expenditure in respect of project spend (main programme) is £499k. The contingency/reserve to remain at £690k.

A copy of the Financial Monitoring Report, Budget and Business Plan had been appended to the report.

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) to agree the financial position for 2014/15.

1) To agree the current financial position for 2014/15

2) The allocation of general grants for 2015/16 be set at £50,000 and events grants at £20,000.

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- 3) Approve the proposed expenditure on schemes funded from Reserves- albeit further Committee approval to proceed is required for a few schemes.
- 4) Approve the budget for 2015/16
- 5) Financial monitoring reports continue to be presented to each meeting of the Charity Committee.

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 in line with budget expectations is anticipated for 2014/15. A similar surplus is budgeted for 2015/16 in respect of ongoing operations. This enables the Committee to establish a prudent level of grant allocations that can be distributed as part of the 2015/16 budget process.

The programmed use of reserves has been determined in accordance with the agreed business plan.

34. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COASTAL USERS GROUP HELD ON 3 MARCH 2015

The extract of Foreshore Trust items from the minutes of the Coastal Users Group meeting held on 3 March 2015 were submitted. There were no Foreshore Trust items to report.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Coastal Users Group held 3 March 2015 be received and noted.

35. ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.27 pm)

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