



Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2023 AT NOON IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S OFFICES WITHIN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillors Birch (Chair), Hibbert and Holland-Delamere

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Stevens (Chair of Environmental Services Committee)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

50. APOLOGIES

No apologies were submitted.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hibbert declared a non-pecuniary interest in Councillor Community Fund application CCF177 under item 53, he further declared a non-pecuniary interest under minute 54 F as he was Trustee of Community Law.

52. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 24th March 2023 as a true and accurate record.

53. GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNITY FUND

- a) St Vincent De Paul's Society – **CCF176** – £1,600 - Entertainment and Dinner for Over-60's and Family Trip to Wickstead Park – Councillors Meredith and Fuchshuber – Talavera

RECOMMENDED: That application CCF176 be approved to the sum of £1,600.

- b) Standens Barn Residents Association – **CCF177** - £1,500 – Proposed Community Organisation – Councillor Hibbert – Riverside

RECOMMENDED: That application CCF177 be approved to the sum of £1,500.

54. GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

- a) The Lowdown Northampton – **CGF56** - £15,000 – 300 Counselling Sessions at £50/hour

It was commented that the Lowdown do great work in the community and that offering them a funding commitment over a period may be beneficial to them. £15,000 was above the £10,000 that had previously been discussed as a maximum annual grant, though this was yet to be adopted as policy.

The Sub-Committee were keen to support the Lowdown and wanted to seek the view of the Community Services Committee of offering a £10,000 annual grant over a period of 2/3 years. This would aid them in planning and also the town council in administration.

RECOMMENDED: That this application be deferred pending talks with the Lowdown on committed funding over 2/3 years and pending the views of the Community Services Committee.

b) NorFAMton – **CGF57** - £5,000 – Annual Festival

A Councillor stated that Northampton Town Council with partners had arranged a Windrush 75 Celebration event scheduled for the 22nd June 2023 and wondered if the applicant has consulted with the Windrush 75 Working Group led by the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery.

RECOMMENDED: That application CGF57 be deferred for further information.

c) Football for Foodbanks CIC – **CGF58** - £2,700 – Football Pitch Hire

In response to a question, the Town Clerk explained the organisation provide a space for people of all-abilities to play football for a small fee and each week they purchase goods to provide to local foodbanks. The Town Clerk explained the organisation would use the funds to hire the University of Northampton's football pitches and offer free sessions to those who provide evidence of Universal Credit entitlement.

A Councillor requested that an evaluation be provided from the applicant on the progress of their expansion, how many people attend, how they advertise and their foodbank donations.

RECOMMENDED: That application CGF58 be approved to the sum of £2,700.

d) Community Law Service (Northampton & County) – **CGF59** - £8,432 – Bangladeshi Community Outreach Project

A Councillor raised concern as the project was a pilot and the amount engagement from the Bangladeshi community was undetermined and the funds if approved would fund a year worth of sessions held every two-weeks. It was posed by a Councillor that the application be approved for 50% of the requested amount and that an evaluation form be completed by the applicant detailing the impact of the Bangladeshi Community Outreach project and then the Grants Sub-Committee could determine to fund the remainder of the requested amount.

RECOMMENDED: That application CGF59 be approved to the sum of £4,216 and the applicant complete a Grant Evaluation six months into to the project to be considered for the remainder of the requested amount.

55. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Stevens explained the recent Climate Change Grants scheme had received a few applications however, he had been reviewing applications to determine whether they would be applicable to the scheme and in doing so had questions on the process the Grants Sub-Committee undertake.

Councillor Stevens continued the current process was applications were reviewed by himself and a Climate Change Forum volunteer, if deemed suitable it would be presented to the Climate Change Forum and if deemed successful at the Climate Change Forum it would be presented to the Environmental Services Committee for a formal and final decision. So far there had only been a handful of applications and only one of which was deemed suitable, though this was yet to be formally presented.

The issue of funding staffing costs had been an issue on a number of occasions, and it was Cllr Stevens' opinion that these should be covered by a grant where significant difference could be made. The Sub-Committee confirmed that they were in the process of reviewing their policy and that on occasion where specialist services were being bought in, then it was a grey area whether this was wages or not, but that they were minded to support. Further focus on this was required.

It was suggested that the Grants Sub-Committee take on a role in assessing the Environmental Grants given their expertise in the area which Cllr Stevens was supportive of. The Town Clerk explained this would be feasible however, consideration would have to be given on the minutes and how the recommendations were made given that the Grants Sub-Committee would in theory report to two main committees, Community Services Committee for Community and Councillor Grants and Environmental Services Committee for Environmental Grants. the Climate Change Grants would have to be reviewed and adopted by the Environmental Services Committee.

Consideration would also have to be given to having formal representation on the Grants Sub-Committee from a member(s) of the Environmental Services Committee.

The Sub-Committee were in favour of all grants being considered by them and recommendations made to the appropriate committees. The Clerk would have to look at how this would be managed and a formal agenda item added to approve this

It was noted that this would be formally included on the agenda at the next meeting.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 1:50PM