



## Cabinet 23 June 2010

### Recommendations from the Grant Panel: 8 June 2010 (Jul10/01)

**Cabinet Members:**

*Cllrs Robert Everitt and Paul Farmer*

**Chairman of the Panel:**

*Cllr Sarah Broughton*

**1. Rural Areas Community Initiatives Fund: Application for Project Funding: 2010/2011 (Report B40)**

***RECOMMENDED:-***

***That no grant be awarded to Little Thurlow Parish Council towards the production of a new village book.***

An application was received from Little Thurlow Parish Council. This application was initially processed in accordance with the email system detailed in the Council's Grants Policy; however the application had to be deferred to the next available Grant Panel meeting because there was not a majority in favour of awarding the grant.

Little Thurlow Parish Council had applied for a grant of £5,000 towards the production of a new village book, which will be distributed free of charge to all households in Great and Little Thurlow. This follows on from, and is an update of, the Little Thurlow 2000 Book produced to mark The Millennium. Additional copies will be produced and offered for sale to interested parties residing elsewhere.

The overall cost of the project is £16,000, excluding VAT, and match-funding totalling £11,000 had already been sought and determined.

Following due consideration, the majority of Panel Members considered that a grant should not be awarded to this project for the following reasons:-

- (a) the application did not meet the criteria of the Rural Area Community Initiatives Fund, largely because the production of the book was considered to be a commercial enterprise, which should not be subsidised with taxpayers' funding;
- (b) a proportion of the book, such as the history of Little Thurlow, would be repeated from the last edition published in 2000. As many people may already have this information having bought the first edition, they may not wish to purchase an updated version therefore, sales to those residing outside Great and Little Thurlow may not be as significant as anticipated and surplus quantities of the book may result; and

- (c) the book was considered to benefit only a small amount of households in the Borough. Whilst the updated version would contain information provided from other sources, such as from contributors located in neighbouring Great Thurlow, the combined total of 203 households in both Great and Little Thurlow remained a relatively small number to benefit from the grant.

**2. Recreation, Village Halls and Play Scheme Grants: Applications for Project Funding: 2010/2011 (Report B41)**

***RECOMMENDED:- That,***

- (1) a grant of £4,810 be awarded to Great Thurlow Parish Council towards the cost of the refurbishment of the Sports and Recreation Ground car park and the installation of the new swing;***
- (2) a grant of £7,500 be awarded to Chedburgh Parish Council towards the cost of modernising the village play area; and***
- (3) a grant of £8,000 be awarded to Whelnetham Community Centre Management Committee towards the cost of a new heating system and insulation to the Community Centre.***

Four grant applications had been received under the Recreation, Village Halls and Play Scheme Grants (Capital) Scheme; however the application submitted by the Suffolk Hunt Branch of the Pony Club, as detailed in Section 3.3 of Report B41, was deferred to the next meeting of the Panel to provide the Ward Member with further time to consider the merits of the application.

Great Thurlow Parish Council wishes to extend and reshape the car park at Great Thurlow Sports and Recreation Ground. The project will involve levelling the inadequate surface of the car park and provide hard standing parking. This improved parking facility will then ease congestion in this area as drivers generally prefer to park on the adjacent road at present. In addition, a swing that was currently in poor condition will be removed and replaced with a new one in the play area.

Chedburgh Parish Council wishes to fully refurbish and modernise the village play area. The existing equipment is old, uninspiring and in need of upgrading to meet modern standards. The play area adjoins the Erskine Centre in Chedburgh, which is the location for the Little Teapots Pre-School and, therefore, a new play area will be fully used by the pre-school children before and after their sessions, together with children from a wider catchment area.

The Community Centre at Great Whelnetham is over 30 years old and the oil fired heating system is inefficient and proving costly to operate. In addition, the insulation of the building is very poor. The Management Committee wishes to install a new, sustainable, eco-friendly heating and insulation system to help improve the efficiency of the building, by reducing heat loss and operating costs.