

Enquiries regarding this Agenda:
Steven Lincoln (01284) 757108

Grant Working Party

***Tuesday 6 September 2011 at 5.00 pm in Room GFR14,
West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds***

CONSTITUTION: *Chairman:* *To be elected*
 Vice-Chairman: *To be appointed*

Conservative *Independent*
Members (6) *Member (1)*

Mrs Broughton *Nettleton*
Clifton-Brown
French
Hale
Mrs Rushen
Thorndyke

SUBSTITUTES: *Conservative* *Independent*
 Members (2) *Member (1)*

Mrs Mildmay-White *Redhead*
Spicer

QUORUM: *Three Members*

***Please switch off mobile phones during the
meeting, unless exceptional circumstances
require otherwise***

Agenda

1. Substitutes

Any Member who is substituting for another Member should so indicate together with the name of the relevant absent Member.

2. Election of Chairman

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

4. Apologies for Absence

5. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011 (copy attached).

6. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the Agenda ***no later than when the item is reached*** and, when appropriate, to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

Part 1 – Public

7. Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme Application for Project Funding 2011/2012: Brockley Village Hall

Report **C109** attached.

8. Bardwell Parish Council: Reallocation of Grant Funding

Report **C110** attached.

9. Core Funding Applications: 2012/2013

To allow for core funding applications to be considered in the round it is proposed that all the applications be brought to the meeting of the Grant Working Party scheduled for 6 December 2011. By that time an initial report on delivering a sustainable budget will have been received by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, which will give the context within which the decisions on the level of grant available will be made.

As recommended by the Working Party, the Borough Council honoured all the two and three year agreements in place for the 2011/2012 budget but gave notice that for the 2012/2013 budget all agreements would be reviewed. Bodies currently receiving core funding are about to be sent an application form for funding for 2012/2013, with a covering letter which alerts them to the budget position of the Borough Council and the need for savings to be made across all budgets, including grants. The application form will also be available on the website should other bodies wish to apply.

It is suggested that consideration be given to phasing changes in levels of grant funding over a four year period (five in the case of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux and West Suffolk Cruse Bereavement to take account of those organisations

having already experienced a reduction in 2011/2012) to help organisations plan in a managed way year on year. Consideration could be given to capturing the reductions in four year funding agreements but with the caveat that there would be a two year break clause, so that the Borough Council has the leeway to reconsider the levels in years three and four should there be further significant reductions in the Government's Revenue Support Grant.

Members of the Working Party will be aware that there has been considerable interest nationally in how public sector organisations have been managing reductions in funding to voluntary and community groups. As all the core funding is up for review for the 2012/2013 budget an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out.

The Working Party is requested to **NOTE** the outline arrangements for considering the core funding applications for 2012/2013.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

The Working Party has already determined that future meetings will be held in 2011 on:-

15 November; and
6 December.

Both meetings will be held on Tuesdays commencing at 5.00 pm.

Part 2 – Private

NONE