

**ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GRANT WORKING PARTY**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2011 at 5.00 pm  
in Room GFR14, West Suffolk House,  
Western Way, Bury St Edmunds**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S O Broughton (Chairman)  
Councillors Clifton-Brown, Hale, Nettleton, Mrs Rushen, Spicer  
(Substituting for French) and Thorndyke

**1. Substitutes**

The Working Party was informed of the following substitution:-

Councillor Spicer for Councillor French.

**2. Election of Chairman**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mrs S O Broughton be elected Chairman of this Working Party.

**3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor J Thorndyke be appointed Vice-Chairman of this Working Party.

**4. Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor French.

**5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Declarations of Interests**

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

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

The Working Party considered Report C109 (previously circulated) which sought approval for a Grant of £6,500 to be awarded to Brockley Village Hall Management Committee towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall and provided background information of the financial details of the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme.

Some concerns were expressed at the financial information presented in Appendix A of the report. Although the information that related to previous financial years was considered to be good background information there was a need for the information relating to the current year, including the balance left to allocate, to be clearly identified. The Working Party concluded that the financial information attached as Appendix A to the report needed to be revised and that two sets of information should be provided, one relating to previous financial years and the other for the current financial year. The officers agreed to raise the points raised with the Finance Section.

Brockley Village Hall Management Committee had applied for a grant to refurbish and modernise the village hall. This would incorporate a modest extension, which would be subservient to the existing building. The planning application was approved by the Borough Council on 9 May 2011 (planning application reference SE/11/0293).

The cost of the project is £118,960 (excluding VAT) and £142,752 (including VAT). The applicant could not reclaim VAT. Brockley Village Hall Management Committee had £2,000 from their own funds; confirmed match funding of approximately £70,000 from the Village Trust Fund (though this money was yet to be released); £5,000 from Brockley Community Council and £1,000 from Suffolk County Councillor Locality budget. The Committee had applied for, but not yet confirmed, funding of £5,000 from Havebury Housing Partnership and £25,000 from The Prince's Countryside Fund. The applicant was also currently looking to apply to other funders to meet the shortfall. Should there be a shortfall in the required funding, the Village Hall Management Committee would seek donations and loans from within the village to complete the project in one phase, rather than spread the project over two or three phases which it is felt would be more expensive.

The Working Party recognised that the Village Hall Management Committee had a 'long way to go' before the complicated financial arrangements were finalised. Concern was expressed whether this Scheme, as presented, would be delivered. Consideration was given to introducing a review date within a specified period but because of the complicated funding issues it was considered more appropriate to review the application when these had been resolved and a scheme could proceed.



**RECOMMENDED:- That,**

- (1) in principle, a grant of £6,500 be awarded to Brockley Village Hall Management Committee towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall; and**
- (2) the application be represented to the Grant Working Party when the financial arrangements for the scheme have been finalised.**

RESOLVED:-

That the financial information attached as Appendix A to Report C109 be revised and the information relating to previous financial years to be shown separate from that for the current financial year.

#### **8. Bardwell Parish Council: Reallocation of Grant Funding (Report C110)**

*(Councillor Hale declared a personal interest as the Ward Member for Bardwell. Councillor Spicer declared a personal interest as his wife was the Suffolk County Councillor representing Bardwell. Both Members remained in the meeting for the consideration of this item)*

The Working Party considered Report C110 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the balance of £685.50 on Bardwell Parish Councils Grant Allocation to be reallocated towards the replacement of the ceiling tiles at the Tithe Barn.

Bardwell Parish Council applied to the Rural Areas Community Initiatives Fund in October 2010 for £2,374 towards emergency works to protect the Village Hall (Tithe Barn) from further water damage, by installing a protective drain at the side of the hall and a decision in favour of the application was made on 25 October 2010.

The emergency works were completed as planned. However, Bardwell Parish Council's net costs totalled £1,688.50, which left a balance of £685.50 of the original grant.

The Bardwell Tithe Barn Management Committee had taken the opportunity to propose other repair work while the hall was out of action. The ceiling tiles were in poor condition and would require replacement sometime in the near future, so it was being proposed to replace them now at a cost of £2,224.



#### **RECOMMENDED:-**

***That the balance of £685.50 on Bardwell Parish Council's grant allocation be reallocated towards the cost of the replacement of the ceiling tiles at the Tithe Barn.***

#### **9. Core Funding Applications: 2012/2013**

The Working Party received and noted a narrative item which outlined the arrangements for considering the Core Funding Applications for 2012/2013.

To allow for core funding applications to be considered 'in the round' it was 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 would have been received by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, which would give the context within which the decisions on the level of grant available would 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 were about to be sent an application form for funding for 2012/2013, with a covering letter which alerted 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 would also be available on the website should other bodies wish to apply.

#### **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Working Party approved that future meetings would be held on:-

15 November 2011; and  
6 December 2011.

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

The meeting concluded at 5.56 pm.

**MRS S O BROUGHTON  
CHAIRMAN**