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# Grant Working Party



*St Edmundsbury*  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Grant Working Party** held on  
**Wednesday 16 September 2015** at **5.00 pm** in **GFR13, West Suffolk**  
**House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

**Chairman** Angela Rushen  
**Vice Chairman** Jim Thorndyke

Sarah Broughton	Margaret Marks
John Burns	Clive Pollington
Ian Houlder	

**By Invitation:**  
Robert Everitt (Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities)

16. **Substitutes**

No substitutions were declared.

17. **Election of Chairman 2015/2016**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Angela Rushen be elected Chairman of the Grant Working Party for 2015/2016.

18. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

Councillor Rushen took the opportunity to welcome new Members of the Working Party to their first meeting.

19. **Election of Vice-Chairman 2015/2016**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jim Thorndyke be elected Vice-Chairman of the Grant Working Party for 2015/2016.

20. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. **Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme: Update**

The Working Party received and noted a narrative item which provided an update on the Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme (RIGS).

Members noted the projects supported so far in 2015/2016 and the amount of grant funding allocated to them, as outlined in the narrative item. The total amount of unallocated RIGS funding remaining in 2015/2016 was £38,018.33.

A discussion was held on ways to positively show that the Borough Council had granted RIGS funding to organisations and whether more could be done by the recipients to effectively publicise the Council's contribution. It was agreed that the Leader would be asked to highlight the projects which had received RIGS funding to date in 2015/2016 in his opening statement at the Parish Conference on 12 October 2015, together with requests being made of the organisations that received funding in the future to formally acknowledge the Council's contribution in an appropriate way.

Attention was then drawn to Report No: PAS/SE/15/026, 'Delivering a Sustainable Budget 2015/2016', which was due to be considered by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 23 September 2015. The report provided detailed background information to a proposal, which culminated in a recommendation that the current Rural Action Plan underspend of circa £90,000 should be allocated in full to the RIGS fund to allow the scheme to continue for the four year period 2016-2020, by allocating an equal sum in each of those years, taking into account an underspend from the current year's budget 2015/2016. The fund would then cease from April 2020. It was envisaged that Community Infrastructure Levy would be in place by then acting as the funding stream direct to town and parish councils for such projects.

If accepted by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, its recommendation would be presented to Cabinet and Council on 20 October and 17 November 2015 respectively.

The Working Party was extremely pleased to note this proposal and if resolved by Council, it should be publicised to parish and town councils accordingly.

*(Councillor Robert Everitt arrived during the consideration of this item.)*

22. **Consideration of Community Chest Funding - Transitional Year (2015 - 2016)**

The Working Party considered Report No: GWP/SE/15/003, which sought approval for a number of applications submitted for Community Chest funding in the 2015/2016 transitional year. The recommendations of the Grant Working Party would be considered by Cabinet on 20 October 2015 for final approval.

The Community Chest fund had only been established this year, therefore funding for existing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) totalling £199,770 had moved into the Community Chest. All previous agreements had been honoured and these would finish at the end of March 2016. As such the remaining Community Chest funds available for the 2015/2016 transitional phase amounted to £56,850.

The following five applications totalling £44,728.50 were considered in turn:

- Appendix 1: Home Start – application for £5,000;
- Appendix 2: Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS) – application for £1,500;
- Appendix 3: Unit Twenty Three – application for £5,000;
- Appendix 4: Catch 22, Suffolk Positive Futures – application for £8,902.50; and
- Appendix 5: Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau – application for £24,326.

Each appendix provided further details of the application to assist the Working Party in their discussion. Each application was required to be evaluated in accordance with the eligibility and selection criteria set out in Appendix 6.

**Home-Start**

The Working Party fully supported this application with the majority of Members recognising the significant role this organisation played in supporting families to help themselves. The application was considered to meet the eligibility and selection criteria extremely well.

All agreed that the full amount of £5,000 should be granted.

**Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service (SARS)**

The Working Party considered that despite not quite meeting all of the eligibility criteria, the application should be fully supported as the service was considered to be extremely beneficial to those in urgent, critical need.

All agreed that the full amount of £1,500 should be granted.

### **Unit Twenty Three**

Concern was expressed with this application with anomalies identified and clarification needing to be sought on a number of issues. Members considered the application lacked direction and focus, and may not be the most effective means of targeting young carers. Whilst it was acknowledged that young carers needed support, the Working Party felt that an application for practical support would be considered more favourably than this submission.

All agreed that the application for £5,000 should not be granted.

### **Catch 22, Suffolk Positive Futures**

Some concern was expressed regarding the quality of the application, which appeared to contain anomalies, contradictions and lacked factual information. Members recognised the general substance of the work of this organisation, however the majority of Members required further detailed information to make an informed decision.

Councillor Margaret Marks fully supported the application and had particularly observed the benefits this organisation had made to young people in Haverhill.

As the majority of Members remained unable to make a decision on the application given the information provided, the following was agreed, that:

- (a) Catch 22, Suffolk Positive Futures, should be asked to supply a summary of what was currently being delivered together with an example model programme of what could be expected;
- (b) the organisation should also be asked to condense its application by providing factual information only, together with giving clarity on the figures provided;
- (c) as Councillor Marks had explained that the applicant had successfully worked in partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure in Haverhill, an endorsement expressing support for the application should be sought from Warren Smyth, Chief Executive of Abbeycroft Leisure; and
- (d) following discussions with Abbeycroft Leisure and further information/clarification being sought on the application, delegated authority should then be given to the Head of Families and Communities, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Working Party to determine the level of grant (if any) to be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

### **Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau**

The Working Party considered this was a commendable project which would provide enhanced access to free advice; however some concern was expressed regarding the level of funding requested.

A discussion was then held on the grants currently provided under the existing SLAs.

Having made further calculations on the level of grant that the Working Party considered was fair and equitable given the information available in the application, Members concluded that approximately three fifths of the application for £24,326 funding for this project should be awarded.

All agreed that £17,500 should be granted and that Suffolk West CAB should be asked to source the remaining funding of £6,826 from elsewhere.

The Working Party was then informed of the arrangements for determining applications for the next round of Community Chest funding for 2016/2017, including that the closing date for applications for the total fund of £281,483 was 30 September 2015. It was agreed that the process followed for this 2015/16 funding be continued, including the same level of information provided to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That, following discussions with Abbeycroft Leisure and further information/clarification being sought on the application submitted by **Catch 22, Suffolk Positive Futures**, delegated authority be given to the Head of Families and Communities, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Working Party to determine the level of grant (if any) to be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

**RECOMMENDED: That**

- (1) the allocation of Community Chest funding for 2015/2016, as detailed in Report No: GWP/SE/15/003, be approved, namely:**
  - (a) Home Start: £5,000;**
  - (b) Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service: £1,500;**
  - (c) Suffolk West Citizens Advice Bureau: £17,500; and**
- (2) no Community Chest funding for 2015/2016 be awarded to Unit Twenty Three.**

**23. Dates of Future Meetings**

The Working Party noted that the next meeting had been arranged for Monday 16 November 2015 at 5pm in GFR13.

The meeting concluded at 6.38 pm.

**Signed by:**

**Chairman**

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