

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services

Thursday 13th January 2022

The Trinity Centre

7pm

Present:

Cllrs Pears (Chairman), Ashley -Higgins, Griffin, Jolley, Mosson, K Ward and Cllrs Wood and Cooper as non-voting observers.

In Attendance:

Olive O’Sullivan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jessica Johnson (Community Engagement Officer).

There was one member of the public present and no press present.

Cllrs Pears encouraged organisations seeking funding from the Town Council grant scheme, to also explore making applications to other grant making bodies.

Zoe Toft sought Committee’s support for FOLIO Sutton Coldfield’s application for grant funding from the Town Council towards FOLIO’s proposed Shakespeare Festival.

35 Apologies for Absence

The CEO had received apologies from Cllrs Cummins and Scott.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

36 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mosson declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Active Citizens Community Volunteers.

37 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on 18th November 2021 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

38 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

39 Questions from Members

No questions from members were submitted.

42 Allotment Sub-Committee

Cllr Wood commented that he was pleased with the progress made on the transfer of allotments from BCC and thanked officers for their continued work. He added that having previously expressed concern about the proposed number of councillors on the Sub Committee he is now in agreement with what is set out and stated his support for the proposed Sub-Committee and its Terms of Reference.

Councillor Cooper advised that like Cllr Wood, he too felt the proposed number of councillors was overly ambitious and asked about the quorum for meetings. The CEO responded that three was the quorum for Committee and Sub Committee meetings. Cllr Pears commented that he understands more work will need to be done on allotments, for example surveys of sites.

The CEO replied that the site surveys had now been completed and that the Town Council's solicitors had received from BCC all the relevant documentation held by BCC in relation to the transfers adding that the Town Council hopes the transfers will be concluded within the current allotment year.

Resolved to approve the establishment of an Allotment Sub-Committee.

Resolved to approve the draft terms of reference for the Allotments Sub-Committee.

40 Community Grants

Committee considered the recommendations of the Community Grant Panel as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Organisation	Project	Amount	Recommendation of the Grants Panel
Acacia Family Support	Supporting mothers/families across Sutton Coldfield affected by pre and postnatal depression	£10,000	Approval from the Social Inclusion Budget
Active Citizens	Community Allotment Development	£2,500	Approval from the Social Inclusion Budget
You're Cherished	Cherished	£9,820	Approval from the Social Inclusion Budget
St James Knit and Knatter	Baby Project	£200	Approval from the Community Grants Budget
Sutton Coldfield Adult Wind Training Band	Establishing an Adult Training Wind Band by purchasing music and paying for rent for practical sessions	£1,200	Decline due to insufficient evidence of sustainability of the group beyond the period of the grant
UP Creative CIC	PROUDLY UPCYCLED Mobile second chance haberdashery	£10,000	Decline due to insufficient evidence of sustainability of the project beyond the period of the grant. In addition, Officers noted that the documentation submitted did not meet the key governance criteria for a CIC.

Resolved to approve an allocation of £10,000 to Acacia Family Support from the Social Inclusion Budget.

Resolved to approve an allocation of £2,500 to Active Citizens from the Social Inclusion Budget.

Resolved to approve an allocation of £9,820 to You're Cherished from the Social Inclusion Budget.

Resolved to approve an allocation of £200 to St James Knit and Knatter from the Community Grants Budget.

Resolved to decline the Sutton Coldfield Adult Wind Training Band application.

Resolved to decline the UP Creative CIC application.

Social Inclusion Central Grant Application.

Committee discussed the application from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield for £19,950 from the Central Grant Scheme for funding towards a revised, scaled down programme of activities and associated budget for the proposed FOLIO Sutton Coldfield Shakespeare Festival which would take place around the Everything to Everybody project first FOLIO exhibition at Sutton Coldfield Library on 23 April 2022.

The Chairman confirmed that Full Council had approved funding of £19,950 in June 2021 towards a much larger festival for which FOLIO had also applied for Arts Council funding. However, despite positive feedback on an application and a re-application for Arts Council funding, FOLIO was unsuccessful in securing funding from the Arts Council and had therefore submitted a new proposal for a social inclusion grant of £19,950 from the Town Council Central Grant scheme towards a scaled down festival.

Cllr K Ward commented that he was very supportive of Shakespeare being performed in a way that made it more accessible to a wider audience and acknowledged there were lots of activities in the proposed programme for children. He added that what he saw as the headline performance, the Natural Theatre Company performances, which would take place in the Town Centre, were likely to be the best part of the festival and provide the opportunity for people who wouldn't normally experience Shakespeare to do so. However, Cllr K Ward expressed concern that these performances would not be free and were limited to a very small number of people. He suggested these performances should be free of charge and open to more people and especially children.

Having reviewed the budget information provided, Cllr K Ward proposed that Committee recommended approval of £13,300 with an additional allocation of £6,650 pending confirmation that the Natural Theatre Company performances would be free of charge and available to a larger audience. Cllr K Ward added that this would result in a reduction of £477 of the budgeted income for ticket sales which could be met from the £2,000 budgeted contingency.

Cllr Ashley-Higgins seconded Cllr K Ward's proposal and commented that the more children and families that could access the event, the better it would be adding it would be good to be able to drop in to the performances.

Cllr Cooper commented that if the Town Council wanted the audience numbers to be increased it would need to increase the funding available and asked why the Town Council was not providing the full income of £25,750 that was required to cover the total costs of the festival. The CEO responded that the Town Council could only provide funding for grant applications up to £20,000. The CEO suggested that FOLIO liaised with the Natural Theatre Company to see if their performance could be delivered in a different way so it could be made available, free of charge to a larger audience.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of £13,300, with an additional £6,650 approved pending confirmation from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield that the Natural Theatre Company performances would be free and available to a larger audience.

41 Town Council Health and Wellbeing Partnership Review

The CEO advised that the report on the Health and Wellbeing Partnership would be considered at Full Council and not Amenities Committee, due to its relevance to the work programme across the Council. The CEO added that the draft report had been prepared, that it is a comprehensive piece of work and that it was with key stakeholders for their comments before being published.

43 Defibrillators

Cllr Pears detailed the 13 sites which host a Town Council funded defibrillator. He added that all Sutton Coldfield schools had been approached and eight had shown interest in being a host. The Community Engagement Officer reported that discussions with these schools were currently in progress.

Committee was pleased to see a proposed location within Sutton Park and discussed whether further defibrillators could be installed across the park. The CEO and Cllr Pears agreed to raise this suggestion with BCC officers.

Resolved to approve installation of a new defibrillator at Falcon Lodge Community Hub.

Resolved to approve installation of a new defibrillator at 1st Sutton Coldfield Sea Scouts.

44 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Cllr Pears asked for further information regarding 3.4 of the report and progress of the Land Use Consultants (LUC) report. The CEO reported that the first draft of the report had been received and that workshops for members would take place within the next few weeks to share findings.

Cllr Pears commented on 4.1 of the report and the Community Sport and Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) in reference to their Annual Sports Awards. The CEO reported that the Town Council's Community Awards would be launched in the next week and would give recognition to achievements of local volunteers and organisations. This may be a sporting endeavour or to highlight the work they do within the community.

Cllr Ward commented on 3.5 of the report highlighting the Park Road railway bridge tunnel as a key part of the town's walking and cycling route. Cllr Ward asked if a mural or artwork could be displayed at this site to enhance the aesthetics. It was suggested that this could link with the Commonwealth Games walking route as well as highlighting Sutton Coldfield history. The CEO replied that officers will liaise with Network Rail to discuss the suggestion and update Committee on progress.

Cllr Pears asked for further information regarding 6.2 of the report and work with young people. The Community Engagement Officer reported that the Youth Vision meetings bring together youth organisations in a forum to discuss activities across the town that benefit young people. The Town Council is again working with BMet Sutton Coldfield students on their industrial placement programme. Students were given a brief in which they were tasked to create a piece that represents what Britain in 2022 means to them, in relation to both the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They have also been asked to incorporate Sutton Coldfield and its history, heritage, and culture into the design.

Resolved to note the progress on Strategic Plan priorities within the remit of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee.

45 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 10th March 2022, 7pm, Trinity Centre

The meeting ended at 19:55 pm.

.....

Signed

.....

Date