

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY AREA COMMITTEE FOR THE HARROGATE DISTRICT
GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2011 at 10.00 am at The Cairn Hotel, Harrogate.

PRESENT:-

Members: County Councillor Bernard Bateman MBE (in the Chair); County Councillors John Batt, J W Marshall (as Substitute for Margaret-Ann de Courcey-Bayley), John Savage, Cliff Trotter and Geoff Webber.

Co-opted Member: Parish Councillor Eric Clark.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

County Council Officer:- Ruth Gladstone (Principal Committee Administrator).

5 members of the public.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

87. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

88. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the quotation and the balance sheet or income and expenditure account accompanying each funding application on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

89. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

It was noted that representatives of three funding applicants were present and wished to address the meeting concerning their respective applications. The Chairman indicated that they would be invited to speak whilst the Sub-Committee was discussing their respective applications.

90. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2011/12

CONSIDERED -

The Budget Monitoring Statement which advised that the amount uncommitted, as at 3 May 2011, was £11,251.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Budget Monitoring Statement be noted.
- (b) That the Sub-Committee's thanks be recorded to Ruth Gladstone and Louise Barker in Legal and Democratic Services for all the work they have undertaken during recent years concerning the administration of grants from the Area Committee's Budget.

91. FUNDING OF VENUE HIRE COSTS AND OTHER MEETING EXPENSES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advising that the costs of venue hire and the provision of teas/coffees for Area Committee and Grants Sub-Committee meetings must continue to be funded from the Area Committee Budget until such time as the Budget was fully spent. It was considered that the Area Committee was likely to spend the remainder of its Budget at either its June 2011 or July 2011 meetings. It was therefore recommended that £250 should be allocated as a contribution towards such costs arising during the start of the 2011/12 year. It was also recommended that a further £10 should be allocated towards the costs of providing plaques and stickers to successful applicants in recognition of grants awarded by the Area Committee.

Members highlighted that the Cairn Hotel had been providing, free of charge, a room for recent meetings of the Grants Sub-Committee, although a small charge had been incurred for teas/coffees. This had meant that funding from the Area Committee Budget had instead been available to enable more grants to be awarded to local communities. It was proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Cairn Hotel.

RESOLVED –

THAT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS BE FORWARDED TO THE AREA COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL –

- (a) That £250 be from the Area Committee Budget allocated as a contribution towards the costs of hiring venues and providing teas/coffees for meetings of the Area Committee and the Grants Sub-Committee held during the start of the 2011/12 year.
- (b) That £10 be allocated from the Area Committee Budget as a contribution towards the costs of providing plaques and stickers in respect of grants awarded during the start of the 2011/12 year.

- (c) That the Chairman write, on behalf of the Area Committee, to the Manager of the Cairn Hotel to extend the Committee's thanks for providing, free of charge, a room for recent meetings of the Grants Sub-Committee.

92. AUDIT OF GRANTS APPROVED DURING 2009/10

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) advising that an audit had been undertaken to check that all grant monies awarded by the Area Committee during 2009/10 had been spent by applicants for the purposes for which such grants were approved. Grants had been made to 86 projects. The outcome of the audit was that all grants had been used for the purposes approved, except for the following:-

- A project from Yorkshire Yoga did not proceed and the grant had been returned to the Area Committee Budget during 2010/11.
- A project from the Parish of the Dunsforths did not proceed and the grant had been returned to the 2011/12 Area Committee Budget. The amount (£500) was included in the total of £11,251 which was now available to award to grant applicants.
- Two projects, by Carers' Resource and Birstwith Cricket Club, were still in progress. Further enquiries would be made towards the end of 2011 to check that these projects had been completed.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

93. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Notes:

- (a) **Prior to consideration of the application from Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership, County Councillor Bernard Bateman MBE declared a personal and prejudicial interest because he had been appointed to this Partnership by the County Council. Exercising his right as a member of the public, he addressed the meeting to emphasise that the Partnership was a non-profit-making organisation. He then left the meeting whilst the application was considered. In the absence of County Councillor Bernard Bateman MBE, County Councillor Cliff Trotter chaired the meeting.**
- (b) **Prior to consideration of the application from North Yorkshire Credit Union, County Councillor John Savage declared a personal and prejudicial interest because he had a very small amount of money deposited with the Credit Union. He left the meeting whilst the application was considered.**
- (c) **Prior to consideration of the application from Supporting Older People, County Councillor Bernard Bateman MBE declared a personal interest because he had been appointed as the Area Committee's Older People's Champion.**

CONSIDERED –

- (a) The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) inviting the Sub-Committee to make recommendations to the Area Committee about the 15 applications which were appended to the report.
- (b) Supplementary papers supplied by various applicants after the papers for today's meeting had been circulated, together with a table setting out the Officer's amended recommendations to the Grants Sub-Committee in respect of some applications.
- (c) An application from Starbeck Gala/Christmas Lights which had been submitted after the papers for today's meeting had been circulated. The Chairman agreed that this application should be considered in special urgent circumstances because the Grants Sub-Committee was likely to be disestablished after today's meeting.

It was noted that £10,991 was available to provide grants to funding applicants if the Sub-Committee's recommendation at Minute 91 was approved by the Area Committee on 9 June 2011.

It was noted that complete documentation had been received for every application submitted to today's meeting.

Representatives of the following applicants addressed the meeting to urge approval of their respective applications and respond to Members' questions:-

- Cascade Garden Centre – Help for Heroes Appeal
- Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership
- North Yorkshire Credit Union

During questions to the representative of Cascade Garden Centre – Help for Heroes Appeal, the applicant's representative confirmed that Cascade Garden Centre – Help for Heroes Appeal did not intend either to seek charitable status or become a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

RESOLVED –

THAT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS BE FORWARDED TO THE AREA COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL –

- (a) Application from Aspin Park Early Years Group seeking funding towards an outdoor play project – That a grant of £250 be approved.
- (b) Application from Cascade Garden Centre – Help for Heroes Appeal seeking funding towards 'It's a Knockout Competition' attraction at Armed Forces Fun Day at Ripon Racecourse on 25 June 2011:-
 - (i) That this application be refused on the grounds that the Committee's funding criteria state "Applicants must be non-profit making or non-commercial organisations" and, with regard to this applicant, there is not a total separation between it and the Cascade Garden Centre, as evidenced by the credit previously extended, in letters of thanks, to "Cascade Garden Centre" (a commercial organisation) for the applicant's previous fundraising activities.
 - (ii) That it be noted that County Councillors wholehearted support Help for Heroes but consider it essential for the County Council, when awarding grants from public monies, to comply fully with the rules relating to such grants to ensure fairness to all.

- (c) Application from Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership seeking funding towards production and distribution of a leaflet to win back lost shoppers from greater and outer Ripon – That this application be refused on the grounds that the Committee’s funding guidelines state that grants from the Area Committee Budget are for projects benefiting local communities, whereas this project benefits retailers.
- (d) Application from North Yorkshire Credit Union seeking funding towards development of the Credit Union Junior Savings Clubs and education programme for primary schools – That a grant of £3,000 be approved.
- (e) Application from Staveley and Copgrove Parish Council seeking funding towards provision of a pedestrian guardrail outside main pedestrian entrance to Staveley Primary School – That this application be refused on the grounds that it conflicts with the Committee funding criterion which states “grants will not be available for projects which are considered to relate to the County Council’s (including the LEA’s) normal expenditure”.
- (f) Application from Oatlands Infant School seeking funding towards and outdoor table/bench set to enable children to develop outdoor work – That this application be refused on the grounds that it conflicts with the Committee funding criterion which states “grants will not be available for projects which are considered to relate to the County Council’s (including the LEA’s) normal expenditure”.
- (g) Application from Pannal County Primary School seeking funding towards replacing benches for performances, sports days, extra seating for outdoor classes and at lunchtime – That this application be refused on the grounds that it conflicts with the Committee funding criterion which states “grants will not be available for projects which are considered to relate to the County Council’s (including the LEA’s) normal expenditure”.
- (h) Application from Supporting Older People seeking funding towards provision of monthly outings into the country for the lonely, frail and elderly in specially-adapted mini-buses - That a grant of £1,108 be approved.
- (i) Application from Hampsthwaite Feast Committee seeking funding towards improvement of access for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs to children’s play area and sports facilities - That a grant of £500 be approved.
- (j) Application from Bilton Area Methodist Church/Raindrops (Parent and Toddler Group) seeking funding towards craft materials, equipment, CDs and mats - That a grant of £273 be approved.
- (k) Application from Girlguiding North Yorkshire West seeking funding towards a visit to Mexico - That a grant of £2,500 be approved.
- (l) Application from Birstwith Cricket Club seeking funding towards the supply and installation of new toilets and showers – That a grant of £500 be approved.
- (m) Application from the Richard Kay Charity (Moor Monkton Village Hall) seeking funding towards Village Open Gardens on 3 July 2011 – That a grant of £250 be approved specifically towards the printing of the programmes.
- (n) Application from Chain Lane Social Enterprise seeking funding towards refitting a toilet block and creating a new disabled WC facility - That a grant of £1,244 be approved.

- (o) Application from 1st Masham Guides seeking funding towards a visit to Switzerland – That this application be refused on the grounds that the Committee’s funding guidelines state that grants from the Area Committee Budget are for projects benefiting local communities and there is no information, within this application, about how this project will benefit local communities.
- (p) Application from Starbeck Gala/Christmas Lights seeking funding towards new LED lights - That this application be refused on the grounds that the Committee’s funding criteria state “applications seeking funding for recurring revenue costs will not be approved” and the purchase of new LED lights is a recurring revenue cost.

(Note: County Councillor J W Marshall requested that it be recorded in the Minutes that he had voted against the motion to recommend refusal of the application from Starbeck Gala/Christmas Lights.)

- (q) That any amount of Area Committee Budget which remains after the Area Committee’s meeting on 9 June 2011 be transferred to the budget being set up within Member Services to fund the cost of external venue hire for future Area Committee meetings.

94. NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED –

That no arrangements be made for a further meeting of the Sub-Committee because, if the Area Committee approves the recommendations set out in these Minutes, there will be no further business for the Sub-Committee to consider.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm.

RAG/ALJ