

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the GRANTS PANEL held at Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 30 June 2016

PRESENT: Councillors S J Criswell and J A Gray

IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Community – C Stopford
Democratic Services Officer – M Sage

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Non-statutory disclosable interests were declared by both Cllrs S Criswell and J Gray regarding any applications within their Wards (Somersham and Kimbolton and Staughton respectively refer).

Regarding application no.38 as Cllr J Gray knew the Chief Executive of the applicant - START (Survivors & Abuse Recovery) - he withdrew from determining the award.

2. COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT AID AWARDS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2016/17

A report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was presented to the Executive Councillors for Community Resilience and Strategic Resources regarding applications that had been received for the 2016/17 Community Chest Award Scheme.

It was explained that Members had agreed, in setting the Council budget for 2016/17, that £60k was allocated to the Community Chest Award Scheme.

A total of 55 applications had been received by the stated deadline, 13 applications less than the previous financial year, and these were listed in the Appendices to the Officer's report. When the maximum award levels were applied, as listed in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's report, the amount of eligible financial support totalled £150,077, which far exceeded the amount allocated in the budget.

Members were requested to consider and determine the applications that should be awarded from the 2016/17 Community Chest Award Scheme.

Each application was considered individually and reasons provided were as follows:

Awarded Organisations:

Ref No.16/17	Applicant	Award (£)	Summary of Financial Support	Justification for Award
01	Medway	1,750	Community	Provided for

	Christian Fellowship		Shop project run by 'Love Oxmoor' which is a community outreach programme operated from the Medway Church on the Oxmoor estate. The Community shop was open four days per week for nearly new clothes, baby items and household goods. The Community Shop linked with the local food bank.	an area of the District with a significant level of deprivation, therefore high community impact. No previous awards received from the Community Chest.
03	St Ives Carnival & Music Festival	2,500	Funds towards the general costs of providing a two day event on 9 - 10 July.	It was recognised that the Applicant had received two awards from the previous two financial years and the requirement to share the budget amongst other organisations. The Carnival and Music Festival provided a significant community event which St Ives Town Council had supported this year.
07	Barney's After School & Holiday Club	475	Funds towards the purchase of outdoor play equipment.	Improved the quality of activities provided by the After School and Holiday Club which was a

				<p>vital service for parents/ guardians.</p> <p>Size of award minimal in comparison to the maximum amount available per application.</p>
08	Relate Cambridge-shire	2,500	Funds to provide free counselling to at least ten Huntingdon-shire children.	Commendable programme with obvious benefits although some concern regarding the amount and certainty that Huntingdon-shire children would benefit.
09	Ramsey & District Day Centre	1,000	Funds requested for general operating costs.	Resilience project that assisted in engaging the elderly community. Hoped that the project would be sustained in the future by local funding. No previous awards received from the Community Chest.
11	New Saints Amateur Boxing Club	900	Funds towards the purchase of approved gym matting.	Contributions towards the set up costs for a project with a significant number of junior Members in an area of the District that required support.
12	Huntingdon Peterborough & Cambridge Multiple	5,000	Funds towards the purchase of new tables, chairs, floor coverings and	Acknowledged that it was a significant application financially and

	Sclerosis Therapy Centre		re-decoration.	organisation was part of a national registered charity. Project would benefit users long-term.
13	Cambridge-shire Police Shrievally Trust	3,000	Support towards general operating costs.	Commendable project although in the future the project should be supported and financed by both the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
17	STRIVE (Huntingdon Young Adult Carers Group) – Carers Trust Cambridge-shire	2,000	Funds towards the costs of planned workshops, room hire and refreshments.	Long-term benefit for young people who could become Mentors in the future to others in a similar situation. Currently 70 young people enrolled in the programme.
19	Godmanchester Rovers (Godmanchester Sports & Football Trust)	2,000	Funds towards the purchase of a ride on lawnmower.	Acquisition of land for additional pitches and assistance required to purchase an asset to maintain pitches. Not necessarily an item that would be included within the budget. Hoped that users and Town Council would support in the future.
20	SIMADS (St Ives Music and Drama	5,000	Costs associated with the repair and	Although there was concern that the organisation

	Society)		refurbishment of the building where the drama group stored costumes and stage props.	might not have raised sufficient funds to proceed with the project before the end of the current financial year, due to the nature of the application it was agreed to offer financial support as the project might be delivered.
25	Offord Village Hall	515	Funds towards the replacement of various items of furniture.	Minimal grant awarded last year. Application No.39 used same resource (All Saints Parochial Church Counsel, Offord Cluny refers). Provided a greater impact for its users in comparison to Application No.39.
27	Great Paxton Community Shop	5,000	Funds towards the establishment of a community shop	Although the area of the District did not have a significant level of deprivation, the planning application had been granted and the organisation was confident that the project would be operational before the end of the current financial year.
29	Somersham Town Band	1,500	Free brass tuition and instrument loan for a	Somersham Town Band played widely across the

			group of 16 - 20 key stage 2 pupils at Somersham Primary School.	district and the project would provide free brass tuition and instrument loan for a group of 16 to 20 key stage 2 pupils at Somersham Primary School, which was difficult for schools to deliver.
31	Darby & Joan Club, St Ives	250	Financial support towards the general outlay involved with operating the club.	Support of a Club that had been in existence for 68 years. Activities included quizzes, musical tributes, an annual meeting, speakers and a hire fee was paid to St Ives Corn Exchange.
32	Huntingdon Society for the Blind	3,750	Funds towards the cost of building a single storey extension.	Local charity planning for long-term provision. The organisation had been granted planning permission, the only outstanding permission related to trees in the rear garden and the organisation was confident that the necessary funds would be available for the project to proceed this financial year.
33	CARESCO	375	Contribution	Modest

			towards cost of establishing an Autism support group	amount of funding requested in order to establish a valuable Autism support group that would be partially self-funding in the future. Although it was a new project CARESCO had operated for 30 years providing a wide variety of care/support services in the north of Huntingdonshire.
34	Team Bex	850	Funds to install a defibrillator at the Café in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park	Hinchingsbrooke Country Park was a facility used by a wide variety of people, not only the running club.
41	Buckden Village Hall Trust	3,700	Funds toward the cost of introducing a permanent gravity drain system to the existing toilet facilities.	The venue was a significantly used community facility and the project would improve the standard of the building.
45	Great Staughton Playing Field Committee	3,252	Replacement of a Logworld climbing frame that ROSPA had indicted was near to being condemned.	Facility that was significantly used and was in a good position as it was located by the Pre-School and behind the Primary School.
48	Huntingdon Community Action	5,000	Funds towards rental costs and the	Commendable project to develop

	Projects		provision of food to participants.	opportunities for marginalised and isolated members in Huntingdon north community - to come together and improve their wellbeing. Acknowledged that the project was operated and managed by staff from Cambridgeshire County Council's Young People's Locality Team and hoped that in the future it would be supported by the County Council.
49	Stilton Memorial Hall Committee	5,000	Funds toward costs associated with the purchase of equipment necessary to make the building functional.	Had applied for a grant unsuccessfully since 2013. Last year the organisation was not at a stage where the project would have been delivered within that financial year. However, it was confirmed that the building would be completed by September 2016 and funds were requested for equipment to make the building functional.
50	Huntingdon Piranhas Swimming	2,500	Funds towards the replacement of	Club operated and provided financial

	Club		swimming clubs diving blocks.	support to the One Leisure Huntingdon site.
51	COPE (Cambridge shire Older Peoples Enterprise)	500	Financial support towards the general cost of holding monthly meetings.	Good initiative that supported the older generation and assisted in the prevention of isolation.
53	1 st Loves Farm Guiding	275	Funds to purchase a lap top, software and bag.	Application supported a Girl Guide unit that had only recently been established.
55	Alconbury Community Pre-School	3,400	Funds to improve the outside area of the Pre-School.	Pre-School provided for the community and the project would be delivered during the school holidays

Unsuccessful applications:

Ref No. 16/17	Applicant	Eligible Award (£)	Summary of Financial Support	Justification for Non-Award
02	Eaton Socon Cricket Club	3,000	Funds towards the cost of replacing two wooden sightscreens.	Awarded £2k from the Community Chest in 2015/16. Given the excessive number of eligible applications, not supported due to the limited impact the application would have on the wider community.
04	Warboys Sports Ground Committee	4,050	Replacement of existing tractor mower with a more modern model.	Village facility that the Parish Council and residents should support. The

				tractor mower was an asset used to benefit the whole community. The replacement and repair of such items should be planned within the budget process.
05	Eaton Socon Pre-School	5,000	Funds towards the purchase of land adjacent to the existing Pre-School site and the construction of a larger permanent building to replace porta cabins.	The District Council was assisting the Applicant as the land referred to was being sold to the Pre-School by the District Council at a moderated rate.
06	St Andrews Parochial Church Council – Abbots Ripton	1,000	Installation of a fourth bell in the church tower and strengthening of the floor.	Admirable village project that the residents should be supporting. Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, there were other projects that affected a greater proportion of the community.
10	Huntingdon Boat Club	3,816	Funds towards the cost of replacing four boats and their equipment with two single and two double	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds it was considered that the application had

			sculling boats and their equipment for junior rowers.	limited impact on the wider community. Awarded £1,184 from the Community Chest in 2015/16. Would be useful to include the level of membership within any future applications.
14	Huntingdon MS Society Branch	2,000	Funds towards the cost of offering a bespoke benefits advice service provided by Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire two days per month to people with Multiple Sclerosis and their families.	The details provided in the application stated that the project was in conjunction with Disability Huntingdonshire who already received funding from the District Council, therefore the application was ineligible.
15	Warboys Christmas Lighting Fund	1,164	Funds towards the cost of replacing Christmas lights and the necessary infrastructure on the lamp posts to enable the lights to be fitted.	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, the project should be supported by the Parish Council and its residents. In other villages/towns the Parish/Town Council purchased the Christmas tree and the residents/

				businesses funded the electricity costs and purchasing new lights.
16	Friends of Stukeley Meadows School	4,500	Funds towards the cost of constructing a roof to enable the tree house facility to be used all year as an outdoor resource.	School project rather than a community project and the tree house was unlikely to be available for use by anyone other than the school.
18	Upwood Ukuleles	1,494	Funds towards the purchase of a sound system and a promotional banner.	Admirable project. However, the organisation should be generating funds itself.
21	Stibbington Centre Greener Future Trust	5,000	Funds to provide a series of monthly heritage events.	Community impact unclear from the application and a significant amount of grant seemed to be towards administration and project costs. Expected that events could be delivered at a reduced cost to that quoted in the application.
22	St Ives in Bloom	1,000	Funding to replace the current plastic flower troughs with stone troughs.	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, there were other applications with a greater community impact and it was a project that should be

				supported by the Town Council and St Ives residents.
23	Godmanchester in Bloom	700	Funds to enable the organisation to continue its programme of enhancements in Godmanchester.	As above and the replacement/repair of the railing over the nearby stream should be supported by Cambridgeshire County Council.
24	Huntingdon Area Money Advice Project	1,200	Funds towards the cost of employing a part time administrative officer.	The Council already supported other organisations providing a similar service and it would be preferable to rationalise the organisations to better enable the Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire.
26	SexYOUality	4,129	Funds to provide a dedicated one-to-one service for young lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender people in Huntingdon.	Although the organisation provided valuable work the application was unclear regarding the amount and certainty that Huntingdonshire residents would be provided for. Financial support requested for 60 one-to-one sessions equated to £68 per session which was a significant amount.
28	St Ives Christmas	3,000	Funds for Christmas	There had been lobbying

	Lights Committee		lights for St Ives annual Christmas lights show.	<p>by District Councillors for the application to be granted. However, given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, the project should be supported by the Town Council and its residents. It was noted that in previous years the Committee that organised St Ives Christmas lights had been awarded an annual grant of £8,000 by St Ives Town Council. In January 2016, the Town Council decided not to make an award, having received applications from two different Committees for the same purpose. The Town Council decided to retain the funding usually awarded and personally enhance the Christmas lights. It was noted that a separate application for Christmas lights had not</p>
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				been granted (Application No.15 – Warboys Christmas Lighting Fund refers).
30	Oxmoor Community Action Group	3,100	Funds to upgrade the garden at the Huntingdon MS Therapy Centre.	A separate application had been received and granted (No.12 - Huntingdon, Peterborough & Cambridge Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre refers) for the purchase of new tables and chairs, floor coverings and redecoration, which was a more effective use of funding. If the application was awarded the authority would be providing two grants to the same organisation.
35	St Ives Corn Exchange CIC	1,971	Funds towards the installation of automatic swing doors to the inner entrance to the Corn exchange building.	It was confirmed that St Ives Town Council owned the building and that it was operated by a Community Interest Company. Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, there were other applications that required

				greater support. The cost for the installation of the automatic swing doors should be recouped from income from building hire.
36	Nene Valley Gliding Club	4,980	Funds to provide a scholarship programme for twelve Ramsey College students to the stage where they become qualified glider pilots.	The project provided a fantastic opportunity. However, this was limited to twelve individual students rather than the wider community.
37	Stilton Children and Young Peoples Facilities Association	2,500	Funds towards a major refurbishment programme and a full ROSPA inspection of the Stilton Skate park.	Huntingdonshire District Council funded the development of the skate park and it had previously been agreed that responsibility for the skate park was a matter for Stilton Parish Council. Fees for ROSPA inspections should be included within the Parish Council Budget. Huntingdonshire District Council did not offer similar financial support to other Town/Parish Councils.
38	START/ START	5,000	Funds to provide	Although the organisation

	Counselling		subsidised counselling to adults.	provided a valuable service and was based in Huntingdonshire, it was part of a national charity and there was concern regarding the amount and certainty that Huntingdonshire residents would benefit.
39	All Saints Parochial Church Counsel, Offord Cluny	1,550	Funds towards the repair and resurfacing of the Church/ Village Hall car park.	Application No.25 (Offord Village Hall refers) used the same resource and had been awarded a grant which had a greater impact for its users.
40	Cambridge & Ely Child Contact Centres	5,000	Funds towards general running costs	The services were operated from locations in Cambridge and Ely and although the organisation maintained it provided a Cambridge-shire wide service it was unable to provide an indication of the number of clients it supported from Huntingdonshire, due to time/resource implications. Therefore Members were not satisfied that the organisation would benefit Huntingdon-

				shire residents.
42	Somersham Community Library (FOSL)	860	Financial assistance towards costs associated with external works and repainting.	The financial assistance requested was effectively for the maintenance of a Cambridge-shire County Council owned building which was leased to Somersham Parish Council.
43	Huntingdon Community Radio	3,821	Funds towards the refurbishment of production studio, new woodwork, cables and connectors and studio electronics.	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and limited funds, there were other applications that required greater support. Expected that the Community Radio would be able to continue to operate irrespective of the refurbishment.
44	The Great Gransden Public Recreation Ground Charity	5,000	Funds to convert a former tennis court into a multi-use games area.	Although the organisation had confirmed that the project would be delivered within the financial year, Members were concerned that the project was not at a stage that it would be delivered, particularly as the maximum amount of grant was requested.
46	Yelling	750	Financial	Given the

	Cricket Club		assistance towards costs associated with refurbishment of the interior of the Pavilion and new flooring.	excessive number of eligible applications and available funds, the application had a limited impact on the wider community.
47	St Neots Rowing Club	5,000	Financial support towards the purchase of two rowing boats, one single and one double.	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and available funds, the application had a limited impact on the community.
52	Great Gransden Baptist Church/Anne Dutton Charity Trust	5,000	Funds to assist with the development of the old school room at the Baptist Church and to provide disabled access toilets.	Not supported as other community facilities already existed in Great Gransden - application did not provide or improve a solitary community facility.
54	Godmanchester Town Cricket Club	2,500	Funds towards costs associated with the Cricket Clubs Pavilion refurbishment project.	Given the excessive number of eligible applications and available funds, limited impact on the wider community.

In determining the applications, Members acknowledged that the financial amount of applications granted totalled £61,992, which was over budget. However, given that it was difficult to equate the applications to exactly £60k and if projects were not delivered in the financial year they would not receive an award, Members agreed that the budget overspend was an acceptable amount.

Following full consideration of all the submissions received, Councillors
S Criswell and J Gray

RESOLVED

to approve the following applications for Community Chest Grant Awards for 2016/2017:

Ref No. 16/17	Applicant	Award (£)
01	Medway Christian Fellowship	1,750
03	St Ives Carnival & Music Festival	2,500
07	Barney's After School & Holiday Club	475
08	Relate Cambridgeshire	2,500
09	Ramsey & District Day Centre	1,000
11	New Saints Armature Boxing Club	900
12	Huntingdon, Peterborough & Cambridge Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	5,000
13	Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust	3,000
17	STRIVE (Huntingdon Young Adult Carers Group) – Carers Trust Cambridgeshire	2,000
19	Godmanchester Rovers (Godmanchester Sports & Football Trust)	2,000
20	SIMADS (St Ives Music and Drama Society)	5,000
25	Offord Village Hall	515
27	Great Paxton Community Shop	5,000
29	Somersham Town Band	1,500
31	Darby & Joan Club, St Ives	250
32	Huntingdon Society for the Blind	3,750
33	CARESCO	375
34	Team Bex	850
41	Buckden Village Hall Trust	3,700
45	Great Staughton Playing Field Committee	3,252
48	Huntingdon Community Action Projects	5,000
49	Stilton Memorial Hall Committee	5,000
50	Huntingdon Piranhas Swimming Club	2,500

51	COPE (Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Enterprise)	500
53	1 st Loves Farm Guiding	275
55	Alconbury Community Pre-School	3,400
	Total	61,992

Councillor
Chairman