Minutes of the Grants Sub Committee held on 31st August 2010 in the Committee Room at the Old Abbey House, Abingdon

Present
Cllr Margaret Crick Vice Chair
Cllr Angela Lawrence
Cllr Jan Morter Chair
Cllr Tim Oates
Cllr Lesley Legge, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee (ex officio)

In Attendance
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Mr Nigel Warner Town Clerk

10. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Duncan Brown.

11. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Lesley Legge declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Breakaway Club as her husband, and occasionally she, drives the Club's minibus.

12. **Minutes**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting of 8th June 2010.

Minute 6:

It was noted that the grant awarded to Abingdon Music Centre had been duplicated in the table of grants awarded whereas the grant to Trinity Church, which had been approved at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting later that evening, had been omitted.

The following details were therefore added into the minutes:

| Name of Applicant | Reason for grant | Grant Awarded and notes |
|---|---|---|
| Trinity Church | Replacement of church boilers and community facilities | £500 - *matched funding with amount raised by the Church as at 29 March 2010.*<br><br>*Grant agreed as the both the Church and Hall are used as community areas.* |

**Resolved:** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2010 be adopted and signed as a correct record.

13. **Grant Aid Applications – General Fund**

It was noted that the budget for the year for general grant applications was £11,000 and the sum remaining before any of the applications under consideration were determined was £9,180.

***Recommended*** that the following Grants be approved.

| Name of Applicant | Purposes for which grant sought (from application form) | Grant recommended, notes and conditions (if applicable) |
|---|---|---|
| 2nd Abingdon Scout Group | Extend current toilets to accommodate a disabled toilet/shower wet room with rear access ramps. Extension will also contain showers for able bodied members. The facilities are also going to be offered to a broader range of people than before. | £500 |
| Abingdon Concert Band | The band is once again performing a popular concert in March 2011 and has provisionally booked the Guildhall. They have previously been in receipt of Vale Hall – Community Grant which has been reduced by 15% and would like assistance in recouping some of the loss of the discount and to go towards the cost of a guest presenter. | £250 |
| Abingdon Jazz Band | To put on live jazz events in Abingdon featuring top quality UK performers at an affordable entrance free. Assistance with, advertising, costs for top musicians and expenses for rhythm section. | £100 specifically to cover the costs of publicity |
| Abingdon Swimming Club | To fund training club members to achieve ASA Teacher status. A full teacher qualification is urgently required in order for the Club to comply with ASA rules. | £500 |
| APAGE | Support production and distribution of festival brochures. Vale of White Horse District Council formerly supported with a grant of £3,000 but this has been withdrawn. | £500 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Breakaway Club | To ensure that the minibus can remain on the road. Next expense is a tail lift service and weight checked which is usually £120; there could be a small amount of welding on the step before the next MOT. | £300, this grant to be allocated from the budget for grants for well-established groups supporting vulnerable elderly and young people. Councillor Lesley Legge declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application as her husband, and occasionally she, drives the Club's minibus, and left the meeting whilst it was being discussed. |
| Oxford Summer Soccer School | Assist with paying football pitch rent and to assist with students who are unable to pay their fees. | Enquiries to be made regarding the out-turn position for this project and a grant of up to £400 be made on any loss incurred, authority being delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee.<br>Noted that the application was received in July, before the project commenced but too late for the June meeting. Advise organisers that they should apply earlier if they are minded to make an application next year. |
| Abingdon Carbon Cutters Community Action Group | Costs of publicity and information provision at Eco-Fair in Abingdon Guildhall, due to take place on 9th October 2010 | £150 |

The sub-committee wished that any applicants who are awarded £500 be advised that this is the maximum grant normally awarded from this budget.

The sub-committee discussed an application on behalf of an individual detailed in the papers circulated prior to the meeting, for financial assistance to aid transport costs to enable her to attend high level coaching in Aylesbury, to attend competitions all over the UK, competition fees, personal gymnastic equipment & clothing. There was a discussion regarding the principal of awarding grants to individuals and the issues of the benefits of such grants to the wider community compared with grants to groups. It was also noted that the maximum grant normally awarded to individuals was £50. The sub-committee **referred** this application to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for determination.

The sub-committee discussed an application from Abbey Chamber Concert to restart a series of Sunday Concerts for the benefit of local amateur and professional players. The request was for a guarantee of 50% of fixed costs for the first season. Members **recommended** that the application be declined on the basis that a full budget (including income) had not been submitted and that costs, based on the expenditure

figures given, would be covered should 12 people purchasing adult tickets attend each concert.

It was **noted** that the total of the grants recommended for payment was £2,300 with a further £400 delegated and £50 referred to this Committee. The maximum allocation to the general grants budget would be £2,500 and the allocation to the budget for grants for well-established groups supporting vulnerable elderly and young people would be £300.

14. **Grant Aid Applications - Twinning Grant**

It was noted that the budget for the year for twinning grants was £1,500 and this was the sum available for allocation.

***Recommended*** that the following grants be awarded:

| Name of Applicant | Reason for grant | Grant Awarded and notes |
|---|---|---|
| Abingdon Marathon | Assist with costs of welcoming, accommodating and entertaining fellow runners from Argentan. Also to assist with engraving costs of the Twin Towns Trophy and costs of the individual trophies. | £400 |

15. **Calendar of Meetings for the Year**

It was noted that the Grants Sub-Committee normally takes place a week before the Finance and General Purposes Committee so that its recommendations may be circulated for consideration by that Committee. The following dates had already been agreed:

Tuesday 2 November;
Tuesday 4 January 2011;
Tuesday 8 March 2011.

There being no further business the meeting rose at 6.47p.m.