

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday
11th February 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Old Magistrates Court, the Guildhall,
Abingdon-on-Thames**

Present:

Cllr Neil Fawcett	Chair
Cllr Andrew Coveney	
Cllr Andy Foulsham	
Cllr Alex Greenaway	
Cllr Jim Halliday	
Cllr Robert Maddison	
Cllr Charlie Birks, Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames (Ex-officio)	
Cllr Samantha Bowring, Chair of F & G P Committee (Ex-officio)	

In Attendance:

Miss Louise Brown	Administrative Assistant (Clerk to the meeting)
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk

CS47 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lorraine Oates.

CS48 Declarations of Interest

Mr Nigel Warner declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Abingdon Pride who had submitted a Grant application under Agenda item 8.

CS49 Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

CS50 Minutes

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2019.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 17th December 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CS51 Matters Arising

None

CS52 Summer Events Sub Committee

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2020.

Cllr Alex Greenaway confirmed he had attended the meeting but was not on the list of attendees. It was agreed he would be added.

Cllr Jim Halliday drew the committee's attention to p14 that mentioned the commemoration events for VJ day. Cllr Jim Halliday confirmed he would find the details of the event that took place when he was Mayor so that this could be used as inspiration for the events. He felt it was important that the Council marked this day as much as VE day.

It was **resolved** that, with the addition of Cllr Greenaway on the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting of the Summer Events Sub Committee held on 29th January 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CS53 Green Advisory and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee received and considered the report of all the matters raised at the above committee relating to the work of the community Services Committee.

Cllr Alex Greenaway raised concerns regarding the recommendation that a percentage of the Grant Budget be dedicated to green causes. Cllr Alex Greenaway felt that without clearer guidelines of exactly what qualified as 'green causes' this would be hard to judge. Mr Nigel Warner suggested that instead of having a percentage of the budget purely for one cause, instead there should be a change to the Grant Application to include a section asking the applicant to highlight how their organisation and project incorporated the Council's corporate objectives.

Cllr Neil Fawcett said that what would be useful would be for officers to go through the list and identified three areas:

- Which of the suggestions could be easily carried out
- Which of the suggestion would requires some work from the committee
- Which of the suggestions might have resource implications.

It was Resolved Miss Louise Brown would look at this ahead of the next Community Services Meeting.

CS54 **Grant Applications**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk relating to the above.

Community Grants Fund

Following discussion regarding the various applications it was **resolved** that the grant applications be determined as follows:

	Name of Applicant	Purpose of grant, as summarised in the grant application	Grant awarded
1	Abingdon Concert Band (a)	Towards the cost of new Sheet Music	£300
2	Abingdon Joint Schools Carnegie Forum (a)	Towards the cost of the 2020 Carnegie Forum Event (20 th Anniversary)	£500
3	Abingdon Pride (a)	Towards the cost of Abingdon Pride 2020	Offered to cover the event under ATC insurance and offer use of Market place electricity to reduce the costs of the event.
4	Abingdon Sea Cadets (b)	Towards the cost of additional rowing seats, replacing a 'pensioned-off' rowing boat & Canoe trailer	£1500
5	Kingfisher Canoe Club (a)	Towards the cost associated with a new club site	£2000
6	Oxford Wood Recycling (b)	Towards the cost of training in recognising and dealing with mental health	£900

		conditions as they arise in the workplace.	
7	Thrive Teams South Abingdon	Towards the ongoing costs of the mentoring programme for young people	Declined

Note that the above grants were made in pursuance of the Council's powers, as noted in column one, as follows (resolved accordingly):

- (a) Local Government Act 1972, section 145;
- (b) Local Government Act 1972, section 137;
- (c) Local Government and Rating Act 1997, part III, section 31;
- (d) Local Government Act 1972, section 144;
- (e) Local Government Act 1972, section 142 (2A);
- (f) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19;
- (g) Local Government Act 1972, section 133;
- (h) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19.

The Committee considered the correspondence received confirming that the Boxing Club Grant of £2,500 was no longer required as the project is not proceeding.

It was **resolved** that the Committee would recommend to Finance and General Purposes that this amount be released back to the Grant fund.

It was **resolved** that the Committee would recommend to Finance and General Purposes that the difference between what is left in the budget and the total amount of grants awarded would be taken from earmark reserves.

CS55 Reports for information only

The Committee received and noted the report of the Administrative Assistant in relation to communications.

CS56 Financial Report

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer/ RFO in relation to the above, as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved: the report of the Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer, be approved.

CS57 Police Community Support Officers

The Committee considered the current involvement with the towns PCSO's and came up with the following recommendations:

- Provide a link via social media to the PCSO Newsletter on our website
- Ask the PCSO's if they would like an information stand at Fun in the Park
- Formally express our appreciation to the PCSO's with a letter.

CS58 Future Projects

Grants Policy

It was agreed that the committee should review the current Grants policy and Application process with a view to making improvements. Considering factors such as whether or not the Council should be steering it towards particular types of projects going forward.

It was **Resolved** that Cllr Samantha Bowring, Cllr Alex Greenaway, Cllr Andy Foulsham and Cllr Jim Halliday would review this by correspondence and bring a draft policy to be considered to the next meeting.

Youth Support

It was agreed that Cllr Samantha Bowring and Cllr Andrew Coveney would review the current Youth projects in the town and see if there was a better way to support them financially than through various grants awarded to many different groups.

It was Resolved that Cllr Samantha Bowring and Cllr Andrew Coveney would work together on this.

CS57 Environmental implications

The Committee had considered environmental implications in relation to the matters discussed at the meeting.

It was agreed that environmental implication would be considered during the review of the Grants policy.

A more environmentally friendly alternative would be offered to Pride instead of them using a generator.

A grant has been awarded to Oxford Wood Recycling which was felt to be a very environmentally friendly organisation.

CS58 Publicity

It was agreed that we would publicise the grants awarded by putting the details up on the website and social media. It was also agreed that the

bigger cheques would be presented at Mayor Making by the departing Mayor.

It was also confirmed that Notice boards will be going up in 2-3 weeks; one outside the town council offices and one on Stratton lodge.

CS59 **Dates of next meeting**

Note that the first meeting of 2020/21 municipal year is due to take place on 19th May 2020.

CS60 **Exclusion of the public, including the press**

The Chair proposed and it **resolved**

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CS63 **Fees and charges**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above.

It was agreed and **Resolved** that:

- The fees for tables and chairs on the marketplace would be increased in line with the Oxfordshire County Councils fees from 1st April 2020.
- It was agreed that this increase would be capped at 10% for the first year at least, with a view to review it annually until the full amount was reached.
- It was agreed that the council would issue warning to all those affected letting them know that The Council are likely to be introducing a policy regarding the use of single use plastic on the Market place and that they should start looking at alternatives now.
- It was agreed that the Council would relax the no glass rule to assist with the reduction of single use plastic, with the understanding that any breakages be dealt with by the cafés to avoid any health and safety issues.

The meeting rose at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....