

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee Meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 4 May 2021, held on-line via Zoom.

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Lynne Grimshaw (Chair) Marjorie Chambers
Nicola Chambers Avril Chisholm
Matthew Cuthbert Liam Lavery
Mark Purvis Pauline Thompson
Bob Walkinshaw

IN ATTENDANCE: Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Stephen Humphrey- Funding and Projects Officer
Sharon Parmley – Senior Administration Officer (minutes)
Members of the Public - 0

FGS 21/063 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Eleanor Armstrong, Victor Bridges, Stephen Fenwick, Brian Gallacher, Lawrence Henderson, Jim Lang, Kris Lavery, Ken Parry and Tom Wilson.

FGS 21/064 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

Cllr. Marjorie Chambers declared an interest in agenda item 7. Allotment Capital Works Programme 2021/22.

FGS 21/065 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

FGS 21/066 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES.

FGS 21/058 5. Applications For Funding Support.

The Town Clerk informed members that letters of thanks for funding support had been received from Ashington Learning Partnership, Bishops Primary School and Ashington Cricket Club. Members were informed that the Cricket Club were thankful for the quick response to their application, allowing them to have a new heating system installed quickly as the Club hosts Covid-19 vaccinations.

FGS 21/062 9. Development of the Town Council Horticultural Service.

The Chair informed members that the recruitment for a Horticultural Assistant had been placed on hold until a new staffing structure be considered.

FGS 21/067 5. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING SUPPORT.

Applications for funding support were received from:

Get U Started Training (GUST)

GUST - an independent special school, with charitable status, providing education and support to 6–17-year-olds with special educational needs with several pupils from Ashington. The organisation had requested the sum of £624 to purchase outdoor clothing to deliver a 'Forest School' training project to learners in Ashington Community Woodland.

Cambois Rowing Club

The Club, based on the River Wansbeck, were planning to hold a regatta on the 22 May 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the regatta would be in a different format this year which will increase the costs of holding the event. The Club were expecting up to 40 entries for each of the 3 divisions. Cambois Rowing Club had requested the sum of £500 to support the costs of a regatta that would include the costs of safety cover, first aid, portaloos, portable radios and prizes.

Resolved

That;

- (i) GUST be awarded the sum of £624 to purchase outdoor clothing to deliver a 'Forest School' training project to learners,**
- (ii) Cambois Rowing Club be awarded the sum of £500 to support the costs of a regatta to take place on Saturday 22 May 2021.**

FGS 21/068 6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS.

The Town Clerk submitted a full schedule of payments and income for the financial period 16 February 2021 to 23 April 2021.

Resolved

That the schedule of payments and income for the financial period 16 February 2021 to 23 April 2021 be formally agreed and approved.

FGS 21/069 7. ALLOTMENT CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2021/22.

The Funding and Projects Officer informed members of the proposed 2021/22 capital improvement work for the Hirst East End allotment site

and formally requested financial support to enable completion of the work at the earliest opportunity.

Members were informed that the Town Council had worked with the Hirst East End Allotment Association (HEEAA) to bring significant improvements to the site in recent years. Members were informed that further work was now required to bring 480m of roadways on the site up to an acceptable standard as well as creating parking bays for plot holders with mobility issues. As part of the works several disused plots would also be cleared to create a wildlife area.

Members were informed that the total cost of the proposed works was £10,500 with HEAA have been successful in raising £1,500 of external funding for the works as well as making a commitment of £1,500 from Association funds. To complete the project funding package, a sum of £7,500 would be required from the Town Council's Allotment Fund to allow the full project to proceed.

Resolved

That:

- (i) Finance & General Services Committee formally note and acknowledge the success of the Hirst East End Allotment Association in securing £3,000 funding toward the project, and that**
- (ii) The Town Council agree a contribution of £7,500 from the Allotments Fund to in order complete the required capital work.**

FGS 21/070 8. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Finance and General Services Committee was provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7:00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm