

Minutes of a Meeting of the Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund Finance Committee, held on Thursday 9th October 2014, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: The Mayor (in the Chair)
HJ Bragg
BW Butcher
PI Carter
MW Moorhouse
Mrs P Russell
MB Trussler
JJ Watts

Officer: Miss L Fidler

01.10.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

02.10.14 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS.

Cllr Butcher declared an Other Significant Interest in Item 03.10.14(i): matters relating to Gazen Salts Nature Reserve.

03.10.14 GRANTS

(i) Members considered information from the Project Manager at Gazen Salts Nature Reserve that had been deferred from a meeting of the Council on 15th September and considered whether further funds could be awarded to the Reserve in the current financial year and what sum could be offered in the 2015/16 year. It has been confirmed that “Year 1 refers to 2014-15 and Year 2 refers to 2015-16, the current shortfall for year 1 2014-15 is £17,905 and for 2015-16 no funds have been confirmed as secured at this point. We are of course making every attempt to raise further funds.” The Committee agreed that every effort should be made to support the reserve, however, some members were reluctant to increase the 2015/16 precept for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATION: Further information about actual expenditure in the year and estimates will be acquired in time for the budget setting meeting on 17th November 2014.

(ii) To consider a letter from the Chairman of The Phoenix Community Resource Hub Ltd and to recommend if funding can be offered in the 2015/16 financial year. It was felt by the Committee that the Charity should endeavour to support areas that promote training and quality. The aspirational visits planned by The Phoenix Youth Project were acknowledged as being an important reward for young people, but at the present time will likely to be unattainable for the charity to fund:

RECOMMENDATION: That Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund tries to provide funding for the following in the 2015/16 budget:

- a. **Four Young People to complete a One Day First Aid Training Course. Four accredited Outcomes = £200**
- b. **Eight young people to complete the one day Food Hygiene course. 8 accredited outcomes = £600**
- c. **Ten young people to complete a 3 hour Street First Aid course, with free first aid kit = £250 (inc kits)**
- d. **Ten young people to complete a ten session (15 hours total) teenage harm reduction programme. To deal with issues of personal health, risk awareness, consequential thinking, the law and personal responsibility, also covering drug and alcohol abuse, sexual health, relationships as well as abstinence = £1000**

- e. **Four young people to benefit from a 20 week cooking course, 2 hours per session, to include budgeting & shopping skills. Focus on healthy eating on a budget with teen friendly recipes. Food prepared will be used to feed young people at the Youth Project = £600**
- f. **To cover costs associated with attempting to achieve the Silver Standard under the AQYP Scheme (Assured Quality for Youth Projects) managed by City & Guilds. The Phoenix Youth Project is one of only eight projects in Kent to hold the Bronze Standard and it is one of only three to be able to move forward to attempt the Silver Standard. Achieving the Silver Standard will assist in approaching larger funding orgs to seek longer term funding = £500**
- g. **In addition to this, allowing for new equipment, repairs, sundry projects, supporting volunteering, costs associated with one off workshops, study support, licenses for software, purchase of information leaflets and costs associated with visiting other projects, attending meetings etc, = £2000 based on previous year's figures.**

(iii) Cllr Mrs Russell provided information about a proposal raised at the Tourism Committee meeting that a budget should be set for supporting community events in 2015/16. The Committee discussed the merits and problems of charitable funds going to community events. Cllr Moorhouse explained that from his experience with the Sandwich Festival the biggest challenge facing the organisers is the lack of volunteers.

RECOMMENDATION: That the event organisers be asked to submit grant application forms, along with supplementary information such as accounts, in time for the budget setting meeting on the 17th November.

04.10.14 BUDGET

(i) Members consider the projected expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year and it was queried whether the projected overspend on heating and lighting was due to the known gas problems with the boiler, the Clerk confirmed that this was correct.

(ii) Members considered whether there are any recommendations to be made in preparation for the 2015/16 budget and whether there were any areas where improvements can be made.

RECOMMENDATION: That Committee members let the Clerk to the Trustee know if there are any suggestions on how to decrease expenditure in 2015/16.

05.10.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

An extraordinary meeting to set the draft 2015/16 budget was confirmed for Monday 17th November 2014 at the conclusion of the Sandwich Town Council Finance Committee Meeting (6 pm), in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall.

Signed: _____ Date: _____