# **Grants Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 2nd November 2017

Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

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| **Chairman** | Cllr J. Edwards\* |
| **Vice Chairman** | Cllr M. Carter\* |
| **Councillors** | Abeysundara\*, Arrick, Blades\*, Dover, Ford\*, Hall, Hewett, King\*, Rodgers, Round\* |

\**Present*

**Meeting clerked by:** Lisa O’Sullivan Town Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Hewett and Dover

1. **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 as trustee of the Hunter Centre. He stated that he intended to withdraw from discussion on that item.

Cllr Blades declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 2 as a member of the Charter Fair committee and item 6 as a member of Haslewey.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held 7th September were signed as a true record.

1. **BUDGET**

The Committee noted the remaining budget, Cllr Round reminded the committee that there were still two more meetings to go in this financial year.

Cllr Carter left the room.

1. **GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**
2. **THE HUNTER CENTRE (£1000, marketing materials)**

The committee agreed that this was an excellent organisation however the fact that it had recently received £41k other sources raised the question of the need for this grant. The committee felt that the application was not clear and that there did not appear to be a defined project that required a grant. It was also noted that HTC was budgeting £7500 to underwrite the lease at the Hunter Centre.

**Recommended:** **that the grant is not awarded. Chairman to write to the Chair of Hunter Centre to explain the reasons.**

Cllr Carter re-entered the room.

1. **HASLEMERE TOWN CRIER (£750, lunch and accommodation for town crier competition participants)**

The town crier explained that this was held at the same time as the Charter Fair but not actually part of the event. He explained that he had to use the Weyhill in Bloom bank account because he did not have a Town Crier one, previously the grant has been paid to the chamber of commerce. The committee noted that grants should only be paid to the bank account of the organisation applying. Cllr Abeysundara suggested that the position of Town Crier, as a civic position, should sit within the remit of the Town Council.

**Recommended:** **that the Mayor and Town Clerk meet with the town crier to discuss a recommendation to be taken to full council.**

1. **CAMELSDALE PRESCHOOL (£1522.29, replacement tables and chairs)**

Amanda Jasper explained that the organisation is a CIO with employees. Cllr Round stated that whilst he supported the grant in principle, Camelsdale is not within the Council’s area, as much as he would like to see the boundaries change. It was felt that the pre-school is a commercial organisation and questioned whether this was a good use of tax-payer money. Mrs Jasper explained that 1 in 5 children attending were from Haslemere. The pre-school has funding issues this year as there is a problem with their roof. She stated that Lynchmere PC contribute £250 p.a but wasn’t sure if Fernhust had been approached. WSCC had not been approached. Cllr Edwards stated that, whilst he was a supporter of education, he did not see how the committee could support an application by a commercial organisation on church property. He suggested that the Haslemere Penny Ha’Penny charity may be able to assist and suggested contacting WSCC. Cllr Abeysundara concurred that the Haslemere Penny Ha’Penny charity would be a good place to ask.

**Recommended:** **that the grant is not awarded.**

1. **IMAGINE THAT PRODUCTIONS (£1000, opera performances at Haslemere Hall)**

Amanda O’Brien gave an overview of the CIC set up by her and her husband in February 2016. They have commissioned an opera by local musician, Clive Osgood, which will be performed at Haslemere Hall. There are high costs involved (around £13k), the last event just about broke even. Any surplus goes back into the CIC towards future performances. In February 2018 a fundraising event will be held to help with funding. It was noted that the performances are all in Haslemere.

**Recommended:** **that a reduced grant of £500 is awarded.**

1. **HASLEMERE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (£1000, running costs)**

Diane Moses explained that the trust exists to provide affordable housing for people in Haslemere. It is a community benefit society and any property purchased will be retained for benefit of future residents. She explained that the grant would go towards community engagement. It was noted that a lot of Government funding is available for these sort of schemes. The committee was broadly supportive of the scheme but is unable to award grants for revenue purposes.

**Recommended:** **that that grant is not awarded. A meeting will be organised with the CLT and representatives from HTC to see how the Council can support the CLT going forward.**

1. **HASLEMERE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE (£1000, ballet classes for over 60s)**

The Committee felt that £1000 was a lot to ask for a new initiative for which no business plan was available. They were concerned that it was too niche and that it was not clear how many residents would take up this activity. They agreed that they wanted more information before considering awarding a grant

**Recommended:** **that that grant is not awarded. The Town Clerk will speak to the applicant to get more information.**

1. **WAVERLEY ENSEMBLE (£1300)**

The Committee discussed the nature of the organisation which is set up as a COC. Members discussed the possibility of the Council paying the hall hire for organisations such as this who want to play in Haslemere. The committee felt that this was a good community project deserving of the same amount of grant awarded to Imagine That Productions.

**Recommended:** **that a reduced grant of £500 is awarded.**

1. **GRANTS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE / PROCESS**

The Town Clerk reported that she found the existing process cumbersome, not easy to apply fairly and generally not fit for purpose. She had discussed with the Chairman a process whereby the committee had delegated powers to award grants, within the allocated budget, unless an application was ‘called in’ by another councillor. A draft process / ToR had been prepared for the meeting but the committee found it needed further revision. Town clerk to review and bring to November council.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

11th January 2018

Meeting closed at 8.35

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman of Grants**