

**HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL****GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Grants Sub Committee was held in the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Present: Councillors A Cole; C Hyams (Chairman); J Sarabia & J Skerry.

In attendance: Councillor A J Mackender-Lawrence, Councillor B Hensley & Mr Gordon Dyer, St.Ives Acorn Cancer Support Group.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor C Hyams be elected Chairman to the Grants Sub Committee for the local government year 2011-2012.

2. **APLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Forster & T Sanderson.

3. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY TOWN COUNCILLORS TO SUB COMMITTEE**

A member of the public & Councillors A Mackender-Lawrence & B Hensley having indicated that they wished to address the meeting, the Chairman proposed that the meeting adjourn and it was

**RESOLVED** to do so.

Mr Dyer of the St Ives Acorn Cancer Support Group referred to his organisation's application for funding. Members heard about the Charity's aims and work to support cancer sufferers and their carers in the area.

Members then heard from Councillor A Mackender-Lawrence in respect of an award already made to the Oxmoor Community Action Group earlier in the year. The Committee heard how the funds had been used for community benefit locally.

Councillor A Mackender-Lawrence then spoke in support of the application for funding that was before Members from St John Ambulance which was intended to meet the cost of security fencing on land being owned by the Town Council.

Councillor B Hensley then addressed the Sub Committee in respect of an application for funding from Huntingdon Community Radio. Members heard about the history of the station; its charity registration; funding requirements under OfCom registration; its reliance on voluntary support and its contribution to the local community and its voluntary organisations. Asked whether a funding contribution from the Town Council would be a long term commitment, Councillor Hensley told the Sub Committee that the funding required now was

to kick start a larger requirement and no future applications to the Council were planned.

Those individuals who had addressed Members were thanked for their comments and it was

**RESOLVED** to reconvene.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J Sarabia declared a personal interest in the application for funding from the Riverside Gala, by reason of her appointment as a Town Council representative to the organisation. Councillor J Sarabia remained at the meeting during the consideration of the application, but took no part in the discussion to determine the amount of financial assistance awarded.

5. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Grants Sub Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 (M2) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman. It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED** that these were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Copies of applications for a total of £10,165.44 from eight organisations had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting and details were summarised in a schedule attached to the original minutes of this meeting.

Members had before them a report which referred to the budgetary provision for 2011/12 that amounted to £55,000, £37,000 of which had been specifically allocated to the Huntingdon Commemoration Hall Charity. Out of the £18,000 for allocation to other organisations £11,825.00 had been awarded in grants for the first half of 2011 with a total of £6,175.00 remaining.

The report also outlined a history of awards for those organisations who had applied for financial assistance on previous occasions.

Careful consideration was then given to the applications presented and a history of awards in proceeding years, where applicable. It was

**RESOLVED** to recommend that the following applications be granted in the amounts shown, subject to the usual conditions and made under the provisions of Section 137, 142, 144 and 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, it being in this Council's opinion that such grants are made in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and that levels of grant are commensurate with levels of benefit derived therefrom:

- |    |                            |           |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | St Ives Cancer Support     | £750      |
| 2. | Huntingdon Community Radio | £3,500    |
| 3. | The Barnabas Buskers       | Nil Award |

4.	Belro Productions	£250
5.	Natural High Experience	£250
6.	Vitalise	£186
7.	Huntingdon Riverside Gala	£684.44
8.	St John Ambulance	Nil Award

Members were advised that the amount awarded at this meeting totalled £5,620.44, leaving £554.56 available for award. It was

**RESOLVED** to note this with thanks.

#### 7. **CONDITIONS OF GRANT AID**

A report from the Deputy Town Clerk had been published in advance of the meeting, which provided details of applicants who had received financial assistance at the meeting of the Grants Sub Committee in March 2011. The report gave details about the extent to which successful applicants had met the conditions of grant aid, following receipt of funding.

Members were advised that a total of fourteen organisations had been awarded financial assistance, all of whom had acknowledged receipt of their grants awarded.

The report gave details of five organisations who had not yet provided copies of their accounts. Members were informed that those applications would be reminded that all outstanding evidence of acknowledgement in their accounts must be sent to the Town Clerk's office by March 2012.

Members were reminded that in 2010/2011, seventeen organisations were awarded financial assistance, fifteen of whom had met the conditions of the grant aid. If the two organisations applied for financial assistance in the future they would be highlighted to the panel as not meeting the conditions of the grant.

The panel agreed on the importance of ensuring that the conditions were met. It would be unfair to award funding to organisations that did not meet with the regulations. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** to look forward to receipt of an updated report at the next meeting.

Members were advised that the many organisations who had advertised the Town Council as sponsors of their organisations had not displayed the correct logo, i.e. the Town Seal. It was

**RESOLVED** to grant permission to those organisations who were awarded funding to use the Town Seal.

#### 8. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, at the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon.

**CHAIRMAN**