

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRANTS FUNDING WORKING PARTY
HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

PRESENT: Councillor Howells, Hughes, and Morris

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Morris declared a pecuniary interest in anything relating to Bye Street Toilets.

17. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRANTS FUNDING WORKING PARTY HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Grants Working Party held on 28 September 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

18. UPDATE ON GREAT PLACES TO VISIT GRANT FUNDING

Members had been provided with information in respect of the current and anticipated Great Places to Visit expenditure, noting that currently there is an anticipated underspend of £17,480.18.

The Chair asked Members to suggest how the underspend could be spent and following discussion it was agreed that officers be instructed to investigate two feasible options.

Members were advised that the Clerk had had a conversation with a Herefordshire Council officer earlier in the day, who had advised that David Fall (HC Officer) had requested an extension to March 2023 to allow the funds allocated to the Master's House to be used.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That officers be instructed to obtain testimonials in respect of the weeding machine previously proposed by Councillor Morris.**

2. That officers be instructed to investigate the possibility of having a permanent catenary wire in place at two points on Homend (Specsavers and Carey Gun Makers) in order to allow the Council to have banners displaying up coming events in situ through each year.
3. That the Clerk provide an update on whether or not there will be a further extension to the funding at the next meeting of the Working Party.

19. ANNUAL GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Chair queried what the role of the Grants Working Party was in relation to grant applications received and the role of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee and Full Council in relation to this process.

The Chair suggested that the process should be as follows:

Grants Working Party to receive applications and consider whether they meet the criteria, and with the assistance of the Clerk establish what power the council has to award each grant.

Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee receive the applications with an accompanying report advising which application the Grants Working Party believe meet the criteria as laid out in the Council's Grans Policy and which power the council could use should they approve the application. The Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee will then consider each application and make a recommendation to Full Council on what if any grant should be awarded to each applicant.

Full Council will receive the applications with a report from the Clerk with recommendations on which applications to support, how much to award, and the method of awarding the grant, i.e., a one-off payment of a three-year grant.

Members were in agreement with the suggestion from the Chair and proceeded to consider the grant applications received.

The Clerk advised Members that due to the Council not having two thirds of their Members "elected" the Council therefore does not have General Power of Competence and therefore are unable to award grants via the Localism Act 2011, but that they would be required to identify which powers could be used to award the grants.

It was agreed that all applications received met the criteria, and the Clerk had prior to the meeting identified which powers could be used to award the grants should the Finance, Policy & General Purposes wish to recommend them for awards as follows:

Over £500

- i. Ledbury Primary School – the purchase of gazebos (Clerk to confirm how many) Power – Local Government Act 1972 - S137 financial assistance
- ii. Ledbury Swifts football Club – to provide support to players and parents of the under 16's team to visit Strömstad in 2023 – Local Government (Misc. Provision) Act 1976 – S19

Multi-Year

- i. Age UK Hereford & Localities – to provide support to the over 50's in Herefordshire to live fulfilling independent lives for longer - Local Government Act 1972 - S137 financial assistance

Year 1 - £4,000
Year 2 - £4,000
Year 3 - £4,000
- ii. Ledbury Places – Funding to support a part-time job opportunity to increase community awareness of our facilities and generating income for the Old Grammar School – Local Government Act 1972 – S144 Power to encourage Tourism

Year 1 –£ 7,800
Year 2 - £6,800
Year 3 - £6,800
- iii. Dream Your Future Families – Funding to support free counselling sessions to children and parents - Local Government Act 1972 - S137 financial assistance

Year 1 - £1,500
Year 2 - £1,500
Year 3 - £1,500
- iv. Ledbury Food Bank – To support the provision of emergency food aid to those without means to feed themselves and the provision of benefits advice and access to other agencies - Local Government Act 1972 - S137 financial assistance

Year 1 - £2,500
Year 2 - £2,500
Year 3 - £2,500
- v. Ledbury Methodist Church – On behalf of all “Warm Space” venues in Ledbury - Local Government Act 1972 - S137 financial assistance

Year 1 - £1,200

Year 2 - £1,350
Year 3 - £1,500

RECOMMENDATION

1. That a report be submitted to the meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee advising that the Grants Working Party consider all applications for grant funding received meet the criteria and that should the Committee agree to award grants they be awarded in accordance with the powers listed above.
2. That the multi-year application form be amended to provide a section for applicants to provide specific detail of what the funding will be used for.

20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

To note that the next meeting of the Grants Working Party is scheduled for 23 November 2023 at 3.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 3.45 pm

Signed *Madeleine Hughes* Date 21/12/2022