

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **COMMUNITY WELL BEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on Tuesday 5 November 2013 at 2.15pm

Present

Councillors: Mrs H Bainbridge (Chairman), Mrs S Griggs, Mrs C Heal, M R Lee, R F Radford (substituting for E J Berry), P F Williams and Mrs N Woollatt

Apology

Councillor: E J Berry

Also present

Councillors: R M Deed, K D Wilson and R Wright

Also Present

Officers: A Tregellas (Head of Communities and Governance), L Reeves (Head of Customer Services), J Stuckey (Member Services Officer) and S J Lees (Member Services Officer)

Declarations of Interest

Councillors:

Member	Minute No	Type of Interest
Mrs H Bainbridge	37	Personal
Mrs S Griggs	37	Personal
M R Lee	37	Personal
R F Radford	37	Personal
P F Williams	37	Personal

34 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from the members of the public present.

35 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

The penultimate paragraph in Minute number 32 to be amended to read 'It was confirmed that the website had a facility to change the language in order to assist Mid Devon residents whose first language was not English. There was also a facility entitled 'Language Line' which was available via the telephone.'

36 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- She welcomed newly elected Cllr Mrs Cathryn Heal to her first meeting of the Community Well Being Policy Development Group;
- Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life had recently received a Devon Tourism Award;
- She had recently attended a Rural Isolation Conference which in her view had been excellent but she had been the only Mid Devon District Councillor in attendance.

37 **GRANT PAYMENTS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS 2014/15**

The Group had before it a report * from the Grants and Funding Officer seeking Member approval for the level of grant awards to external organisations for 2014/15. The Head of Communities and Governance outlined the contents of the report.

Discussion then took place regarding:

- The 2014/15 financial year marked the third year in the current three year review to align grant allocations to external organisations against the Council's corporate priorities. A new review would commence next year once the Council knew what the Revenue Support Grant from central Government would be for 2015/16. A protocol setting out how this review would be conducted would be brought before this Group;
- The Group were informed that officers from the Community Development team and the Cabinet Member for Community Well Being made up the membership of the Grants Review Team. All organisations had been assessed against the criteria approved by this Policy Development Group in June 2011. All applicants to the Seed Fund were required to evidence how their proposed project met the Council's corporate objectives, they also had to provide their Business Plan and financial statements and needed to state how the project could be sustained beyond the term of funding;
It was confirmed that assurance had been received from the Head of Finance that any monies left over from the Seed Fund would not be taken back into the General Fund but would be rolled over into the next financial year;
Members expressed concern as to why there had been such a poor uptake of the Seed Fund and suggested that better advertising and promotion should take place;
- It was confirmed that the allocations to the Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life 'Museum' and 'Tourism' were separate allocations. The Cabinet had agreed that £4k would be paid to the Museum for a fixed period of three years. Both facets of the Museum would be managed

- by the same person with the intention being to generate more income and becoming more self-sustaining;
- There appeared to be some confusion amongst Towns and Parish Council's regarding the Town and Parish Fund (TAP) and Mid Devon District Council's Seed Fund.

It was **AGREED** that the following actions needed to take place:

- i. The Community Development Team to consider a re-branding or a re-launch of the Seed Fund so that as many charitable organisations as possible were aware of its existence;
- ii. Ward Members should take responsibility within their own Towns and Parishes to promote the existence of the Seed Fund;
- iii. The protocol and criteria used to assess Seed Fund applications be recirculated through the Members Weekly Information Sheet;
- iv. Next year's Grants report should state what the previous year's allocation was so that a comparison could be made.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that:

- (i) The 2014/15 levels of grant funding for external and charitable organisations as set out in Appendix 1 be endorsed;
- (ii) The budget allocation to the Seed Fund for 2014/15 be endorsed and that any unspent monies in the Fund relating to 2013/14 be carried forward into the Seed Fund for 2014/15 and not transferred to the General Fund.

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs N Woollatt and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Heal)

It was further:

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that all Ward Members are informed of any applications to the Seed Fund from organisations within their wards and that they also be informed of the result once the application had been assessed.

(Proposed by Cllr P F Williams and seconded by Cllr Mrs N Woollatt)

- Notes:
- (i) Cllrs Mrs H Bainbridge, Mrs S Griggs and R F Radford declared personal interests as they were members of the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee;
 - (ii) Cllr M R Lee declared a personal interest as he was a member of the Crediton Arts Centre;

- (iii) Cllr P F Williams declared a personal interest as he was a Trustee of Involve, a previous member of the Common Players, he had helped to set up the Sunningmead Community Centre, and he was a member of the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee;
- (iv) Cllr P F Williams requested that his vote against the recommendation in relation to the levels of grant funding and the allocation to the Seed Fund for 2014/15 be recorded;
- (v) Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed Minutes.

(The meeting ended at 3.35pm)

CHAIRMAN