



Blyth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Grants Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 22 October 2015 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillors:

J R Potts (Chair), O Potts (Vice Chair), A Cartie, A Gibbs-Barton,

Officers:

Town Clerk (Democratic Services) Stephen Rickitt
Officer Manager Alison McCabe
Committee Clerk Maureen Hawthorne

Members of Public: 1

No	
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors M Parker, K Nisbet
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS Councillor Gibbs- Barton declared non-pecuniary interest in the Scouts and the RNLI.
3	MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 JULY 2015 The minutes of the Community Grants Committee were AGREED by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

4	<p>APPLICATONS TO THE COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND</p> <p>The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) advised that all of the money was allocated at the last meeting. He added that everyone who received grants in 2014/2015 has been written to with a request that they provide evidence of the expenditure.</p> <p>With regard to the letter for the Yacht Club (letter attached to the signed minutes) the Committee concluded that although the club did not secure big lottery funding, they can keep the grant as this will still be used as part of the heritage project.</p>
5	<p>COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE PROPOSALS (please see attached information)</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts commented that Councillor Elliott requested 2 payments of £500 to be paid earlier to Newsham Residents Association for an event which took place in August 2015.</p> <p>Committee agreed this payment retrospectively.</p> <p>Councillor O Potts said there does not appear to be specific rules around spending of Councillors allowances. The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) said the Council had previous agreed that Councillors schemes could be located in any part of the town and not just in a Councillor's ward. Councillor O Potts disagreed with this concept and pointed out that some deprived wards are not getting any money as Councillors are putting the money into Blyth. Councillor Gibbs- Barton pointed out that some organisations have parishioners over several wards.</p> <p>The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) asked the Committee if they would consider granting him power to agree Councillor's requests to avoid retrospective agreement and perhaps in emergencies he could consult the whole Committee. Councillor O Potts added that she would like Committee to make the decisions and keep control of the spending.</p> <p>This suggestion was not agreed.</p>
6	<p>REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND FORMS</p> <p>The Town Clerk (Democratic Services) said that although there are no issues with the procedure or forms they will be looked at in the future with a view to making them more user friendly.</p>

7	ANY OTHER BUSINESS No other business.
8	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The Committee agreed to move the next meeting to a 6.00 pm slot prior to another Committee in early 2016.

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE:

Councillors:

J R Potts (Chair)
O Potts (Vice-Chair)
A Cartie
B W Elliott
A Gibbs-Barton
K Nisbet
M Parker
G Thompson
A Turnbull

Officers:

S E Rickitt Town Clerk (Democratic Services)
A McCabe Office Manager
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk