



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the St Piran’s Room, Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 21 August 2023 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors NG Pengelly (Vice-Chair in the chair)

MJ Beveridge	NA Davis
SJ Bosworth	W Elliott
NC Broadhurst	J McKenna
RW Crago	SJ Reynolds

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Cameron Sil (Responsible Finance Officer) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer).

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lawlor.

13. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council’s Code of Conduct:-

Councillor McKenna declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda No. 7(b) ‘Coach House Project – Town Deal Enterprise Grant’ as a member of the Penzance Town Deal Board which would consider any subsequent grant application and advised that he would take no part in the debate or vote on this item.

14. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marcia and Peter Bell were in attendance and spoke in favour of Agenda No. 6(b), ‘Applications for Grants – Newlyn Harbour Lights’.

15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential items for consideration.

16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2023

It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor W Elliott; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Seven in favour. Two abstentions.

17. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

(a) Heamoor Community Interest Organisation

Information about the organisation's cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report - the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that a grant of £950 be awarded to Heamoor Community Interest Organisation from the General Grants Budget.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Bosworth)

(b) Newlyn Harbour Lights

Information about the organisation's cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report - the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL that a grant of £6,000 be awarded to Newlyn Harbour Lights from the General Grants Budget, on the condition that either Option 2 or 3 within the firework quotes, contained within Appendix 1 to the report, is selected for a quieter display.

(Proposed: Councillor Crago; seconded: Councillor Bosworth)

(c) Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association

Information about the organisation's cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report - the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that a grant of £750 be awarded to the Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association from the Social Action Grants Budget.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor McKenna)

(d) Earth's Green Guardians

Information about the organisation's cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report - the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that a grant of £502.86 be awarded to Earth's Green Guardians from the Climate Emergency Grants Budget.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor W Elliott)

18. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Future CCTV Provision

Following communication from the Chief Fire Officer of the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service on 1 March 2023, informing all Towns that, in future, the Tolvaddon critical control room would focus purely on the statutory delivery of call handling to support fire and rescue functions, the Town Clerk had been working with the CCTV Management Group to explore alternative models to maintain CCTV provision. The background and options which had been considered and discussed were set out within the report and its appendices.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to undertake the work necessary, and to enter into discussions and/or negotiations on behalf of the Council, to ensure that CCTV provision is maintained in Penzance.
2. (A) detailed proposal(s) for the future provision of CCTV in Penzance be presented a future meeting of Penzance Council for its consideration.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor W Elliott)

Vote; Eight in favour. One abstention.

(b) Coach House Project – Town Deal Enterprise Grant

The Finance and General Purposes Committee previously resolved to support the further development of a full Town Deal Enterprise Grant application for the Penlee Coach House Project.

The estimated total project cost was £519,915 and the maximum Enterprise Grant Fund contribution of £250,000 had been applied for. At the previous meeting of the Committee, it was noted that the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer would carry out a budget review, to investigate both potential reserve and underspend positions, to identify potential match funding and make further recommendations to Penzance Council.

This work had now been completed, with in-year underspends and specific earmarked reserves identified as potential sources of match funding.

The Committee was therefore being asked to note the proposal to allocate the specific budget underspends and identified reserves as Penzance Council match funding towards delivery of the project, and provide advice to the Council as necessary on the corresponding financial implications.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

It be noted that the following recommendations would be made to Penzance Council at its meeting scheduled to take place on 11 September 2023:-

- ‘1. A full Town Deal Enterprise Grant application be made by Penzance Council for the transformation of the Penlee Coach House.*
- 2. Subject to (1.) above, authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to create and submit said application on behalf of Penzance Council.*
- 3. Subject to (1.) above, the specific budget underspends and the identified reserves, as set out in this report, be allocated as Penzance Council match funding towards the Town Deal Enterprise Grant application for the Penlee Coach House.*
- 4. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £60,000 be made from the Arts and Culture energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*
- 5. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £5,000 be made from the Finance and General Purposes energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*
- 6. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £4,000 be made from the Leisure and Amenities energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*
- 7. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £30,685 be made from the Penlee Exhibition Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*
- 8. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £41,683 be made from the Penlee House Projects Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*
- 9. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £56,359 be made from the Penlee Centre Building Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.*

10. Subject to (1.) and (3.) above, a virement of £35,333 be made from the Penlee House Non-Domestic Rates budget to the Coach House Refurbishment fund reserve.'

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Seven in favour. Two abstentions.

(c) Funding for the Kesoberi Community Interest Company

At the meeting of the Youth Services Working Group held on 30 November 2022, the Kesoberi CIC put forward a proposal for the support of a Youth Centre service, which was successful, with Penzance Council also then providing its support to the project as a whole at its meeting held on 16 January 2023.

The Kesoberi CIC had already received a £10,000 grant from the National Grid and £5,000 from Penzance Council kept the service running in the short term and paid for 50 hours of bid writing to source grants from other providers to maintain the service in the longer term.

The Youth Centre ran for 3 nights a week, in Penzance on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Sea Cadets building, and in Newlyn on Thursdays at the Centre. Funding achieved by bid writing provided a programme of activities during the summer of 2023.

The Kesoberi CIC, having achieved some of the funding for which it had applied to reopen the Youth Centre from September 2023 for a further six months, had put forward a proposal to extend its initial request for funding from Penzance Council to include further match funding of £10,000 in order to enable this.

As Penzance Council had already adopted a resolution to support the Youth Centre Project, the request for an extension to the funding was now being presented to this Committee for final decision as it held responsibility for the Youth Strategy Earmarked Reserve and Youth Activities budget line.

Finally, it was also suggested that the Kesoberi Community Interest Company could benefit from the certainty of a Service Level Agreement with Penzance Council in order to allow it to continue to provide the Youth Centre Service into the future, subject to the annual consideration of budgets.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. An extension of funding, to the value of a further £10,000, for the Kesoberi Community Interest Company to continue its Youth Centre Project in Penzance and Newlyn, be approved.

2. A virement of £10,000 be made from the Youth Strategy Earmarked Reserve (3995/9) to the Youth Activities Budget (3225) to support the project.
3. An item be added to the Finance and General Purposes 2024/25 draft Budget to allow future consideration of further financial support to the Kesoberi Community Interest Company's Youth Centre Project, on the understanding that any future funding would be on the basis of a Service Level Agreement between Penzance Council and said Company.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Davis)

(d) Financial Papers to Receive and Accept

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the following financial papers be received and accepted:-

- (i) – Paid Expenditure from 1 June to 31 July 2023
- (ii) – Bank Reconciliation from 1 June to 31 July 2023
- (iii) - Financial Comparison for the Period Ending 31 July 2023

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

19. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no reports for information.

20. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT NEXT MEETING

There were no matters arising for report at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:53 pm

Chair
16 October 2023