



**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the St Piran’s Room, Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 19 August 2024 at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors

NG Pengelly (Chair)  
S Elliott (Vice-Chair)

MJ Beveridge  
NC Broadhurst  
W Elliott  
Z Lawlor (from 7.14 pm)

J McKenna  
SJ Reynolds  
N Tonner

Also present: Cameron Sil (Responsible Finance Officer) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer).

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bosworth and Davis.

**14. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15. TO CONSIDER WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests had been received.

**16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke in favour of Agenda Item 7(a), ‘Applications for Grants – St Piran in Penwith’.

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke in favour of Agenda Item 7(c), ‘Music Ability CIC’.

**17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

**18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2024**

Having been previously circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

Vote; Five in favour. Three abstentions.

**19. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

(a) St Piran in Penwith

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

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £2,956 be awarded from the General Grants Budget to St Piran in Penwith for the project: 'St Piran in Penwith Celebrations 2025'.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Tonner)

Vote; Seven in favour. One abstention.

(b) Gulval Village Community 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 £1,000 be awarded from the General Grants Budget to Gulval Village Community Association for the project: 'Defibrillator provision in Gulval village' on the condition that sufficient public liability insurance for the defibrillators is evidenced before payment.

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

(c) MusicAbility CIC

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 £2,520 be awarded from the General Grants Budget to MusicAbility CIC for the project: 'Weekly music Therapy group for adults with a learning difficulty living in the community' on the condition that two-to-sign is evidenced for the organisation's bank account before payment.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor McKenna)

**20. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES FOR DECISION**

(a) Alexandra Play Park – External Area Survey

When the Alexandra Play Park and Tennis Courts were devolved from Cornwall Council, the raised external area of the site, including a low wall, two lion statues, planters and the footway were also devolved. At the time, a condition survey was completed by GPJ Consulting Engineers but it was subsequently decided that the recommended works were put on hold whilst the initial project was completed.

However, a number of failures to the low-level wall and further deterioration of the surface itself had now been experienced and it was therefore recommended that an updated survey was provided, including a review of the cost estimates.

Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that

1. It be noted that, at its meeting held on 5 August 2024, the Leisure and Amenities Committee resolved the following:-

*‘Subject to the recommendation set out below, the contractor which provided the initial condition survey of the external areas of Alexandra Play Park and Tennis Courts be reengaged to undertake an updated review of the space(s) and provide updated cost estimates for the required work.’*

2. The use of up to £5,000 of funding from the Devolution Reserve be approved to meet the costs associated with the updated review and cost estimates.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor S Elliott)

Vote; Seven in favour. One against. One abstention.

**21. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

(a) Revised Grants Policy

At the meeting of Penzance Council held on 15 July 2024 it was resolved to review the Grants Policy following the near exhaustion of the grants budgets at such an early stage in the financial year. The tracked changes shown in the revised policy, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, listed the officer recommendations to make the policy clearer and more robust.

It was not recommended to place a financial limit on grants which could be requested, as this could exclude projects which would make a significant positive impact on the parish but might have been unviable if a certain level of funding was not provided by the Council. However, Penzance Council held a limited budget to provide grants to

external organisations and this needed to be recognised, there should not have been an expectation that grants would always be provided or that requests would always be met in full. An arbitrary financial limit may have precluded some extremely worthwhile projects within the parish and Members would need to consider the available budget for the year when reviewing each grant application, with thought given to how a project aligns with the Council's strategic objectives and, for those with limited alignment, whether a grant should be made in part only or if no grant should be provided.

During the debate, Members raised concerns that there were areas within the policy which might preclude deserving organisations from applying for, and/or receiving, grants from Penzance Council, such as the stipulation that those organisations which had received grants would not be eligible for further grants during the following twelve month period.

It was therefore suggested that an informal Working Group be established to consider the policy in greater detail and make recommendations to the meeting of this Committee due to take place on 21 October 2024.

Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that this item be deferred to allow for further consideration by an informal Working Group, with expressions of interest for membership to be sought by the Democratic Services Officer.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Tonner)

Vote; Seven in favour. Two against.

(b) Financial Papers to Receive and Accept

Following consideration, it was

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

(i) – Paid Expenditure from 1 June to 31 July 2024

(ii) – Bank Reconciliation from 1 June to 31 July 2024

(iii) - Financial Comparison for the Period Ending 31 July 2024

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Seven in favour. One abstention.

**22. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no reports for information.

**23. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT NEXT MEETING**

The revised Grants Policy would be presented to the next meeting following the consideration of an informal Working Group.

The meeting closed at 7:39 pm

Chair  
21 October 2024