

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 3 September 2024 at 10.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Carney

Cllrs: Jonathan Bourbon (to 12:55pm) Paddy Mooney  
Andrew Holdridge Anne Rickard  
Anna Killick (to 1:05pm) Dave Rickard  
Ann Langridge (from 11:00am)

Also present: Will Austin (Town Clerk) and Paul Fuszard, (Finance and Office Manager)

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

#### 11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ian Bark, Ann Langridge (for lateness), and Steve Williams.

#### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute 16, Grants to Larger Bodies 2024/25 - with reference to the Code of Conduct, Appendix B (non-pecuniary interests). Members declared interests in this item, in relation to the grants requested from organisations where they were Trustees, or in positions of management in the bodies listed below. In accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code, and Paragraph 35(c) of Standing Orders, they did not participate in decision making and voting on the relevant grant applications.

- Cllr Ann Langridge - Bridport Youth & Community Centre (Fundraiser)

#### 13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Best Value and Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 4 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been wrong to offer a report on investment strategy for the next meeting (minute 4) as this meeting was given over to grants and service level agreements. The report would therefore be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 14. TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS TO SMALLER BODIES 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3916, summarising grant applications received.

The Sub Committee considered each grant in turn, having regard to the Town Council's agreed criteria for grants and the application form submitted.

<b>Applicant and Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>Award (£)</b>
St. Catherine's Pre School - Weldmar's Stampede by the Sea and their linked learning programme; and adopting one of the baby elephants that will form part of the art trail.	250
Equintervention - 20 subsidised sessions available to those experiencing mental health including: dementia, trauma, anxiety, autism & oppositional defiance disorder ANDADHD.	500
Age UK North, South & West Dorset - To assist our Welfare Benefit provision in Bridport. Each year, our team supports thousands of individuals across North, South & West Dorset with the free service provision which supports vulnerable older people to gain the benefit that they are entitled to.	500
The Stepping Out Cancer Rehabilitation Group - An exercise and wellbeing programme to help members with their recovery, during and after receiving a diagnosis of cancer.	500
ASCape - A fortnightly 75-minute after school art club for Autistic and/or socially anxious children aged 12-17, with local artist Kathy Kelly. ASCape's aim as a charity is to support these children, whether or not they have a formal diagnosis.	500
Home-Start Wessex - To support our expansion into a new catchment of West Dorset, developing services to support vulnerable families with young children, filling the gap left by the closure of Home-Start West Dorset (HSWD) in Oct' 2023.	950
The Bank of Dreams & Nightmares - The RESONATE event aims to give marginalised groups; who may otherwise be excluded from regular arts activities because of rural isolation, social exclusion or lack of prior engagement in the cultural community; broader skills and more confidence in their creative writing skills.	500
Bridport Millennium Green Trust - To continue to improve the entrance to the footpath up Coneygar Hill from Mountfield and to clear the adjacent area surrounding the grotto/archway.	500
Bridport Literary Festival - Every year we try and run an event with the UK Children's Laureate, past or present. This year we are finally happy to have secured Joseph Coelho as our main school's event. This comes at greater cost, but we believe it really is worth it as he is such a widely respected and well-known poet and children's author, who promises to inspire Bridport's students both to read, and write creatively.	500

<b>Applicant and Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>Award (£)</b>
B Sharp - Towards Bridport Jams, a weekly out-of-school music making project for young people ages 11-18. We used to run this group for teenagers but had to stop during the pandemic. We would like to start this up again, as an opportunity for teenagers to meet up and play music together in a safe, supportive environment.	500
West Bay Community Forum - The Forum is run by a committee on behalf of the members to look at issues in and around West Bay and raise them up with relevant bodies. Twice a year we have an open meeting for all members, usually with a speaker to allow members to meet up and discuss anything that the forum can help with.	100
Loders Youth Club – Support costs for youth workers (two from Axminster and one Whitchurch Canoncorum). Contribution to costs, as attendance fees don't cover the rent.	0
Bridport Youth Dance – Art and Dance in the Landscape initiative - Choreography Geography 2025 – will be a site specific performance in the local rural/coastal landscape in September 2025. This colourful spectacle will involve young dancers from the BYD contemporary programme, BYD alumni and will be intergenerational.	500
Bridport Youth Dance – Education & development programme - Education and development programme. This includes the after school programme and 21 <sup>st</sup> annual production at the Electric Palace in March 2025.	500
Bridport Boys Dance - Bridport Boys Dance workshops led by a professional dancer and choreographer for the specific boys dance programme.	350
Electric Backroom Studio – Wordwalk. Groups of 15 people participate in an artist-led Wordwalk in the local landscape with literary associations. Integrating voices with the landscape creating an emotional attachment with significant locations.	0
Friends of the Lyric CIC - HERSONG III is a performance platform for young women and girls to perform new work co-produced with TOCIYA Town of Culture young adult group – in collaboration with BSharp. bacStage, Youth Centre, TOCIYA connections, Ascape, Ripple Workshop.	400
We offer face to face, telephone and email advice services from our main office in Bridport 5 days per week. In person services are a mixture of drop in and appointments. To help with the cost of volunteer travel expenses to the office.	0
<b>Total Small Grants</b>	<b>£7,050</b>

Following discussion of each grant, it was

RECOMMENDED: that

- (i) the above grants be approved under the General Power of Competence, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Home-Start Wessex – the grant amount is considered exceptional in the circumstances and the organisation should not expect repeat funding of this order in future; and
  - b. West Bay Community Forum – the grant is not guaranteed to be repeated and the group should seek alternative funding.
- (ii) The following applications be not supported at this time:
  - a. Lodders Youth Club – members suggested approaching Lodders Parish Council.
  - b. Electric Backroom Studio – insufficient information was provided to allow a satisfactory assessment against grant criteria.
  - c. Bridport and District Citizens Advice – considered to be an extension of the larger Service Level Agreement grant.
- (iii) Unsuccessful applicants be reminded that the West Bay Car Boot Sale grants scheme opens for applications in November 2024.

\*\*\*The meeting paused for a comfort break at 11:28am and resumed at 11:35am.\*\*\*

#### 15. **TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS TO LARGER BODIES 2024/25**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3829, detailing proposed funding support for organisations in Bridport, and Service Level Agreements that would be reviewed at meetings with these organisations between August and October. Members discussed the proposed grants and the Service Level Agreements underpinning them.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that the grants be awarded, as previously agreed in line with the council five-year term, as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Bridport Citizens Advice	£10,000
Bridport Arts Centre	£7,500
West Bay Discovery Centre (Bridport Area Development Trust)	£0
Bridport Leisure Centre	£5,000
Bridport Youth & Community Centre	£30,000
Bridport Museum	£7,500
Literary & Scientific Institute (Bridport Area Development Trust)	£6,250
2020 Skate & Ride	£5,000
Friends of the Lyric Theatre CIC	£5,000
Precision Football Arena	£3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£79,250</b>

- (ii) that Bridport Arts Centre be asked to demonstrate community use and benefit including for 'hard to reach' communities.

- (iii) That any future increase in the award to Bridport Youth & Community Centre be dependent on robust plans to stabilise the financial position, and the achievement of match funding from other sources.
- (iv) That the Bridport Area Development Trust be required to provide a business plan for the LSi prior to next review of the Service Level Agreement.
- (v) two further agreements with Pymore Village Management Company, and the Allington Hill, Cooper's Wood and Field Community Group be delegated to the Chair, Leader and Council representative to the groups, with any resulting awards estimated to be a combined cost of £1,250.

**16. TOWN COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

The Town Clerk reminded members to contact David Dixon, Project Manager, with any further items for the plan.

**17. COMMUNICATIONS**

No communications were reported.

The meeting closed at **1:28pm**

**The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 3 December 2024**