

MINUTES of the **GRANTS PANEL MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **FRIDAY 24 MAY 2023** at 17.00 hours.

Present: Matthew Goldsmith Chairman
Matthew Cornish *
Janice Henwood
Mohammed Hossain
Brenda Williams

Also Present: Peter Williams

** Denotes non-attendance*

(19.00)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Cllr Brenda Williams was elected as Vice Chair of the Grants Panel.

18. OPEN FORUM

Representatives from 4Sight Vision, St Edward's Wives, Weald Classic Car Club, Burgess Hill & District Bereavement & Friendship Group, The Sussex Harmonisers and Girlguiding Burgess Hill Division all attended the meeting. A representative from Burgess Hill District Lions attended on behalf on Central Sussex Rotary

The representative from Girlguiding Burgess Hill Division confirmed the prices of the badges had been reduced to £396.

The representative from St Edward's Wives stated that they were planning an afternoon tea for the 55th anniversary, and that their members were aged between 60-90 years old.

The representative from Weald Classic Car Club confirmed that all vehicles came from the Mid Sussex area.

The representative from Burgess Hill District Lions confirmed that the total prize fund for Mid Sussex Search for a Star was £1500. He also stated that Wivelsfield Village Hall was being used for the final as it was offered free of charge for the event, but that most of the entrants and volunteers were from Burgess Hill.

The representative from the Sussex Harmonisers added that although their membership was only £25 per person per month, this was unreachable for many people. He also confirmed that there were a number of benefits for Burgess Hill residents, including performances within the town and at care homes in the local vicinity.

The representative from 4Sight Vision confirmed that the funds would be ringfenced for Burgess Hill residents and that the project cost was just the cost for Burgess Hill residents. She also added that they were running at a deficit year on year due to reductions in funds available to them.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Matthew Cornish.

20. SUBSTITUTES

There were none.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Brenda Williams and Matthew Goldsmith declared an interest in St Edwards Wives application as a St Edwards Church was within their ward. They also declared an interest in Weald Classic Car Club application as Fairfield Recreation ground, where the event would be held, was in their ward.

22. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Notes of the previous meeting, on Thursday 12 October 2023, were agreed.

23. MINOR GRANTS PHASE 2 2023

The Panel resolved to award the following amounts:

Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Mid Sussex Active	£1,000	£400
Sussex Chorus	£1,000	£700
Girlguiding Burgess Hill Division	£426	£396
Neighbourly Care	£1,000	£500
St Edwards Wives	£1,000	£500
Burgess Hill Heritage and History Society	£1,000	£500
Burgess Hill Pantry	£1,000	£700
Burgess Hill & District Bereavement & Friendship Group	£250	£250
Weald Classic Vehicle Club	£1,000	£500
Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	£1,000	£200
Central Sussex Rotary	£1,000	£500
The Sussex Harmonisers	£1,000	£500
4Sight Vision	£1,000	£750
Total	£11,676	£6,396

RESOLUTION The Grants Panel agreed to award grants to organisations as set out in the table above. A total of **£6,396** was allocated from the Minor Grants Fund.

24. GRANTS APPLICATION PROCESS

It was discussed that the Town Council had seen a significant increase in applications received and historically the Grants budget was not fully spent enabling a build-up of funds to allow a large number of beneficiaries and some receiving a significant grant.

Therefore, the Panel were asked to consider;

- Amalgamating the funding pot so one stream – major and minor to fall within this. Applications to be considered for running costs and one-off capital expenditure.
- Move the scheme to annually to enable the fund to be split amongst applicants in one fair round.
- Move the deadline for applications to 31 January each year allowing time for groups to ensure financial information collated and this fits better with workloads for Officers.

- Restrict the scheme to organizations that have 'Net Current Assets' of less than £1 million to ensure that the scheme supports smaller groups.
- Update the conditions of funding to state that preference is given to those groups that have not received a grant in the last 24 months. This will encourage organizations to look widely for funding rather than repeat applications with same groups receiving funding each year.

RESOLUTION The Panel agreed with the considerations set out above and it was resolved that grants would be considered once a year, following a January deadline. This is subject to ratification at Full Council in July 2024.

Chairman Matthew Goldsmith thanked the Officers and Responsible Finance Officer for their hard work on the grant applications process.

Meeting terminated at 17.57 hours.