

Grants Board
7 February 2024

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the GRANTS BOARD held on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE

PRESENT: Councillors M.Siewniak (Chairman)
M.Birleson (Vice-Chairman)

L.Chesterman, R.Lass, D.Jones, J.Skoczylas,
F.Wachuku and N.Pace

OFFICIALS J. Guthrie, Assistant Director (Leisure, Community and Cultural
PRESENT: Services)
C. Cade, Governance Services Manager

23. SUBSTITUTION OF MEMBERS

Councillor Pace substituted for Councillor Sarson.

24. APOLOGIES

Councillor Sarson sent his apologies for absence.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 were approved as a correct record.

26. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 7

There were no items of urgent business.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

28. GRANTS BOARD PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from the Assistant Director (Leisure Community) on

- the Annual Grants 2023/24. All successful applicants had received their second and final grants.

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- Small Start Up Grant applications had opened and will remain open until 12th February 2024
- The Community Lottery went live in September 2023. There are currently 40 applications.

29. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

None.

30. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for agenda item 9 on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) and paragraph 3 (private financial or business information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended). In resolving to exclude the public in respect of the exempt information, it was considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

31. GRANTS BOARD PRESENTATION FROM OFFICER

The Board received a presentation from the Assistant Director (Leisure Community) which provided an update on the details of the organisations which had received grants in 2023/24.

The presentation included positive feedback from one of the organisations which the grant had supported highlighting the positive work it had been able to complete since receiving the funds.

The Community Lottery

Forty good causes had been approved and live on the Community Lottery. Details were provided to the Board on ticket sales.

The operator income from ticket sales was shared with the members of the Board. Profits from the ticket sales would be brought back to Grants Board for decision on how this would be spent.

Details were shared on a complaint which had been received regarding the Grants Board and the work which had be done to resolve this and the governance requirements to be eligible for the lottery.

ACTION:

- Where are free fabric Saturdays taking place
- Break down of the percentages of those moving to paid and volunteer employment (Recovery)

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- To share slides on the “good causes” which had not sold any lottery tickets.

32. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT NATURE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

It was suggested that going forward applications that involve schools would have a signature from the school these would be running the project from to avoid the risk of these schemes not going ahead.

It was proposed that a site visit to the schemes that the Grants Board had supported. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate that schemes were invited to a future meeting to show their outcomes for 2023/24. Concern was raised that this may create a prejudice to certain organisations to receive additional funds.

Meeting ended at 8.10 pm