

12th November 2024

Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham from 7.30pm to 10.18 pm

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr M Gee

Councillors: Cllrs B Callender, R Comber, S Gurney, T Lack, K Malvern, H Richards and I Shepherd-Dubey.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk: Katy Hughes and Finance Manager/ RFO Lisa Davison

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Alvi (Vice Chair).

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey declared an interest in the application for financial assistance received from Wokingham Pride and left the room while this application was discussed.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OR THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

No questions were received.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee, seconded by Cllr T Lack and it was

that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted i.e. commercial, financial and personnel, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY (IN-YEAR) GRANT FUNDING 2025-26 (Agenda Item 5)

The Town Clerk verbally reported that of the 2024-25 £10,000 in-year fund, available since July 2024, three grants had been approved totalling £3,500. A further two applications have been received and are to be presented to the F&P Committee meeting on 3rd December. There is an expectation that the £10,000 budget will be spend by 31st March 2025.

The Committee discussed and agreed that £12,000 for Culture and Community should be included in the budget for 2025-26. This value was reviewed again after considering applications for the Main grant fund and its final value resolved.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2025-26 (Agenda Item 6)

CHAIR INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30952**

The Town Clerk advised that the maximum available grant, including Culture and Community grants, was set at 10% of the previous year's precept. Therefore the maximum available to distribute was £122,726 (10% of the 2023-24 precept).

All Cllrs had been sent a spreadsheet listing the grant requests, grants awarded over the previous four years, together with an allocation of this year's application forms and supporting documentation for consideration prior to the meeting. They were asked to trial the scoring system for each application to determine whether it is suitable for future use or that amendments are required.

During the discussion, members resolved to allow the meeting to continue beyond 10pm.

**RESOLVED
30953**

It was agreed that the committee would discuss and resolve upon the principle of partnership grants at the December meeting.

**RESOLVED
30954**

It was proposed by Cllr M Gee, seconded by Cllr R Comber and members

that the Culture and Community grant for 2025-26 be set at £15,000 and that the main grants should be allocated as follows:

Keep Mobile

A grant of £6,500 be awarded.

St Paul's Church – Churchyard Maintenance

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Cowshed

A grant of £2,500 be awarded.

Holt Copse Conservation Volunteers

A grant of £800 be awarded.

Me 2 Club

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

CLASP

A grant of £1,500 be awarded.

Wokingham Job Support Centre

A grant of £2,500 be awarded.

ARC Counselling

A grant of £3,000 be awarded.

Link Visiting Scheme

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Friends of the Emm Brook

CHAIR INITIALS _____



A grant of £400 be awarded.

Wokingham Fireworks

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Home Start Wokingham

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

All Saints Church (Churchyard maintenance Project)

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Dingley's Promise

A grant of £5,000 be awarded.

Kaleidoscopic

A grant of £750 be awarded.

Wokingham Cycling Club

A grant of £500 be awarded.

Our Community First

A grant of £2,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Pride

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Wokingham Volunteer Centre

A grant of £1,500 be awarded.

Wokingham Lions (May Fayre) and Wokingham Lions (Winter Carnival)

A grant of £28,000 be awarded.

First Days

A grant of £2,800 be awarded.

Saint Sebastian Band

A grant of £3,000 be awarded.

All Saints Wokingham Repair Café

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Sangeet Foundation

A grant of £1,800 be awarded.

Wokingham Choral Society

A grant of £1,000 be awarded.

Citizens Advice Wokingham

A grant of £10,000 be awarded.

CHAIR INITIALS _____



Applications for grants amounted to £177,194 and during this evening's meeting a total of £91,550 was awarded.

Letters will be sent to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their applications.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK/ RFO

The meeting ended at 10.18pm

CHAIR INITIALS _____

