

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Benefit Fund Committee

A committee which reports to, and is overseen by,
Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council (BCPC).

Date of meeting: Tuesday 11th June, 2019 at 5.00 pm
in Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall Committee Room.

Present: Parish Councillors - Nigel Manners (Chair), Bill Pennington, Kate Rowlands.
Parishioners - Paul Clarke (Secretary), Phil Drummond, Geoff Pitt, Chris Reed,
Catherine Smale, Andy Smith.

1. Apologies: Parish Councillor - Mike Welch.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May, 2019.

The Minutes were approved.

3. Return of FOBS funding recommendation from full parish council seeking confirmation of original recommendation following 'last-minute hitch'.

Chris Reed declared an interest as he had checked the FOBS accounts.

The committee was advised that one of the new Torridge District Councillors attending the recent parish council meeting had been asked by a parish councillor to find out if Torridge District Council or Devon County Council had any control over money given to the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust. It was also stated that 'it had come to light' that all schools had now received special awards of £10,000 from central government to be spent only on provision for Physical Education and that Bradford Primary School would be putting this money towards the purchase and installation of the play/exercise equipment which was the subject of their recent application for funds. Since the checking of these issues would take a little time, the Chair of the parish council had been advised to defer the ratification of the award of £2,500 to the Friends of Bradford School (FOBS) recommended by the Community Benefit Fund committee at its 23rd April meeting.

One parishioner member of the committee pointed out that he had spoken to the FOBS representative who submitted the bid and that she knew nothing of the £10,000 issue. Another parishioner member asked if this news of the £10,000 central government additional award was hearsay or fact. No concrete evidence was available either way at this meeting.

The discussion which followed revisited the ground covered previously when the decision was made to reduce the FOBS initial request for £12,000 to an award of just £2,500. Many questions had been asked and answered at that time and the final recommendation was felt to balance fairly the forces pulling this application in different directions.

It was stated again that the money was being given to FOBS, a local support group working tirelessly to raise funds to make the school pupils' experience richer. The committee wanted to support this group with an award to be added to the other funding it had already raised or been promised for this project. These amounts, which did not include the new £10,000 central government award, were known to the committee when it recommended the award of £2,500.

It was also pointed out that FOBS, in agreement with the Headteacher, would tailor the purchase of the equipment to match the amount it had managed to raise to buy and install it. The more it could raise, the better the facility would be but it needed to get a move on because the school is facing an OFSTED inspection in the Autumn term and wanted the facility finished and in use by then. If the £10,000 extra award was real and available then the very best facility could be provided for the pupils. If it was not available then FOBS would have to reduce the size or the complexity of the design.

FOBS had also made it clear that if the project failed to go ahead for any reason then it would be in a position to return the unspent community benefit award given to it.

It was decided to put the issue of the award to a fresh vote. The motion, "Should this committee continue to recommend the award of £2,500 to FOBS for the purchase and installation of play/exercise equipment in Bradford Primary School?" was proposed by Geoff Pitt and seconded by Catherine Smale. Those in favour numbered 9, those against 0, so the motion was carried unanimously.

The parish councillors present agreed to advise the parish council verbally that the Community Benefit Fund committee was still recommending the award of £2,500 to FOBS at the full parish council meeting the following night.

4. Consideration of any new funding applications received since 14th May.

None received to date. Two bids are soon to be in preparation. The Chair has started preliminary discussions with Devon Highways department regarding the provision of a new bus stop for southbound travellers at Dunsland Cross. Geoff Pitt is exploring the fairest way to fund feasibility studies for the provision of composting toilets at our two local churches.

5. Consideration of poster designs for post-16 education travel bursaries.

The secretary produced a first draft of a poster designed to attract and identify local post-16 students in, or soon to be in, further education attending colleges which require long-distance daily return travel. It is hoped that these students can be supported with bursaries appropriate to their needs.

The poster was considered and a number of improvements were suggested by committee members. The secretary will incorporate these improvements and re-issue the poster to all committee members and the parish clerk. (ACTION: Secretary)

6. Open Platform.

A brainstorming session was held to identify which type of club or society could benefit the local community but which does not exist at the present time. The community benefit fund could be used to attract suitable people to run such activities by providing start-up money (but not ongoing running costs). Ideas randomly mooted included music tuition (by providing access to instruments for those wishing to learn to play individually or in a band or orchestra), cycling proficiency tuition, horse riding tuition and bell ringing tuition.

It was felt that getting such messages out in the most effective way might need to involve social media and that a researcher might gainfully be given an honorarium to identify the best way forward.

7. Hand over arrangements for new secretary from 1st August 2019.

The secretary provided all committee members present with a sheet listing the documents (paper and electronic) to be handed over to the new secretary and a chronological list of all the tasks required of the secretary during the calendar year.

8. Items for next agenda.

Nominations for, and election of, new secretary. (ACTION: All)

Further suggestions for new clubs or societies which would be worthy of start-up support. (ACTION: All)

9. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th July, 2019 at 5pm.