Growth & Localism Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth & Localism Committee of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at 9.30 am.

Committee Members Present: Councillors F Ellis (Chairman), P Allen, D Bills, M Edney, B Riches and (for part of the meeting) B Spratt

Apologies: Councillor J Overton

Substitutes: Councillor (For part of the meeting) L Neal

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors (For part of the meeting) Y Bendle, T Blowfield, M Gray, K Weeks and M Wilby

Also in Attendance: Mrs M Harbour – Application: Redenhall with Harleston Town Council
Mr P Goodfellow – Application: Earsham Football Club
Mr R Neal – Application: Poringland Parish Council
Ms F Lambert – Application: Tharston & Hapton Parish Council

Officers in Attendance: The Communities & Active Life Manager (I Lambert), the Funding Manager (N Cunningham) and (for part of the meeting) the Marketing Projects Manager (S Scott)

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members declared ‘other’ interests in the matters listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Reason for Declaration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>L Neal</td>
<td>Club Secretary and related to applicant - Poringland Football Club (Cllr Neal did not take part in the debate or vote)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>P Allen</td>
<td>Chair on SNYA Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>B Riches</td>
<td>On Board of Bordahoppa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The minutes of the meeting of the Localism Committee held on 16 July 2013 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising from minute number 6, the Chairman confirmed that members of the Committee had received criteria guidelines for the assessment of Capital Grant applications.

Members considered the report of the Funding Manager which detailed four Capital Grant Applications.

The Chairman advised applicants that they would be asked to present their applications to the Panel after which they and members of the press and public may be asked to leave the room whilst the applications were discussed. They would then be permitted to return to the meeting. She clarified that members of the Growth and Localism Committee would assess the applications and their recommendations would be put to Cabinet in February 2014 where a final decision would be made.

Application 1: Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Mrs M Harbour gave a presentation to the Committee, detailing the application from Redenhall with Harleston Town Council for funding towards the improvements to Harleston Memorial Leisure Centre.

The Committee was advised that the addition of a mezzanine floor to the existing leisure facility would create additional exercise and rental spaces, as well as allowing partitioning of the area and improving energy efficiency by reducing energy costs.

Application 2: Earsham Parish Council

Cllr M Gray, District Councillor for Earsham, introduced Mr P Goodfellow who presented his application to the Committee, advising members that it was a joint application between Earsham Football Club and Earsham Parish Council for the replacement of the facilities for the use of Earsham Football Club, the Earsham Playing Field Committee and the Earsham Festival Committee.

The Committee was advised that the building currently used by the football club was in a poor state of repair and that the first team had no option but to travel to Wortwell to use their facilities as their own did not meet Football Association (F.A.) requirements. The funding requested would enable the applicant to demolish the existing old building and erect modern facilities which could be used by several local groups.
Application 3: Poringland Wanderers Football Club

Mr R Neal, Poringland Wanderers Football Club, gave a presentation to the Committee which detailed the club’s application for funding towards a new multi-purpose sports facility at Poringland.

Members were advised that the intention was that the new facility would be used by many different groups in the local and wider community, and that, if granted, the funding from South Norfolk Council would be used to pay architects and quantity surveyors at the initial stage using any subsequent allocation to attract other sources of funding.

Application 4: Tharston and Hapton Parish Council

Ms F Lambert, Chairman of Tharston & Hapton Parish Council, gave a presentation to the Committee which detailed her application for funding towards a new village hall.

The Committee was advised that the existing village hall was not fit for purpose and had been condemned, leaving no facilities for the local community. Members were shown a model of the proposed new building, for which planning permission had already been obtained.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that under Section 100A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst the Committee deliberated on the grounds that the discussion would likely disclose commercially sensitive information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

Following member deliberations, the meeting was reconvened and the following resolutions were passed:

Application 1: Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Members were in favour of the project, which met the Council’s criteria, and agreed that the full level of funding should be offered.

It was RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET that a grant of £60,000 be offered.
Application 2: Earsham Parish Council

Members supported the application and agreed that the full level of funding should be offered.

It was RESOLVED:

**TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that a grant of £50,000 be offered.

Application 3: Poringland Wanderers Football Club

Members agreed that the project met the Council’s criteria but, as Capital funding was limited and, in comparison with Applications 1 and 2, the project was at a comparatively early stage of development, funding at a lower level than that recommended by officers should be offered.

It was RESOLVED:

**TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that a grant of £40,000 be offered on the condition that the initial £25,000 be used to commission a detailed business case upon receipt of which the remaining £15,000 would be released to further fund the project.

Application 4: Tharston and Hapton Parish Council

Members agreed with officer recommendations that the application did not appear to give the same level of benefits to the wider community as others received, and that it did not appear to provide the same level of strategic scale when assessed against the other applications. They also felt that, due to the proximity of Tharston & Hapton to Long Stratton, local residents could make use of the significant improvements being made to Long Stratton Leisure Centre.

It was RESOLVED:

**TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that no funding be offered.
13 REVIEW OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

The Funding Manager presented her report which proposed a new Protocol to improve how South Norfolk Council entered into and administered funding arrangements with voluntary and third sector organisations. Members were advised that officers had reviewed a number of the funding arrangements and had liaised with other authorities to ensure that the proposed new Protocol would enable the Council to administer Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Funding Agreements (FAs) to deliver key services outlined within Directorate Plans, provide value for money and use of a lean administration approach. The protocol would also provide a simple mechanism to clarify procurement options and which funding arrangements should be used for managing these services.

Members generally felt that the report was confusing and requested that this be simplified and clarity added where necessary. Concerns were raised that members were not involved in the selection/management process of FAs and it was suggested that member feedback be given though discussion with the Growth and Localism Director and through member discussion of the draft Directorate Plans.

The Funding Manager confirmed that the figure of £4,000 noted against NESCAB in the ‘list of SNC’s current in scope funding arrangement used to inform this review’, should have been printed as £8,028. It was further identified that Norfolk Churches should be listed as Norfolk Churches Trust, and Orchestra Live should be listed as Orchestras Live.

It was RESOLVED:

1. to note the approaches identified in the new Protocol, as described in the report of the Funding Manager, with the three amendments detailed above.

2. to simplify and add clarity to the report for ease of understanding.

3. to ensure member involvement when managing SLAs through discussion with the Growth and Localism Director and on the draft Directorate Plans.

14 MARKET TOWNS UPDATE

The new Marketing Projects Manager introduced herself to members and gave an update on the Market Towns Initiative. She advised the Committee that a number of meetings had been arranged to discuss views and ideas with key players in the four market towns, and that signage to and around the towns had been identified as one of the initial projects. After general discussion, members were advised that a full written report, detailing the progress of the initiative, would be presented to the Growth and Localism Committee in March 2014.
WORK PROGRAMME

The Future Work Programme of the Growth & Localism Policy Committee was discussed and it was agreed that Your Neighbourhood, Your Choice (YNYC) should be discussed at the next meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that the Market Towns Update should be a standing item on future agendas.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm

Chairman