

MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2016 at 7.00pm at **Macclesfield Town Hall**.

In attendance: Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Adam Schofield
Cllr Liz Durham
Cllr Chris Andrew
Cllr Beverley Dooley
Cllr Aliff Harewood

Also in attendance were, Cllrs Philip Bolton, Janet Jackson and Ainsley Arnold; Diana Hamilton, Ray Clarke, Tim Shercliffe and Mike Rance of Make it Macclesfield; and the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Martin Hardy

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Janet Jackson declared an interest in item 4 as a member of Make it Macclesfield

Cllr Beverley Dooley declared an interest in item 4 as a member of Make it Macclesfield and 5.1 as a member of Macclesfield Community Artspace

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to invite members of the public to address the committee with any comments or questions they may have. There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: That the minutes are accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION FROM MAKE IT MACCLESFIELD

Make it Macclesfield representatives Diana Hamilton, Mike Rance, Tim Shercliffe and Ray Clarke, gave a detailed presentation on work to date against targets and strategic direction.

It was noted that following the end of the current SLA with Macclesfield Town Council, the Print Mill would move from Make it Macclesfield to Macclesfield Community Artspace as this would facilitate greater strategic access to funding for the project and clearer organisational links.

It was noted that the existing no rent and no Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) position meant that the project was sustainable, but that this would need to be reviewed if commercial rents and NDR were applied.

Information was presented relating to ongoing community engagement provided by Make it Macclesfield and the value and engagement was noted.

A detailed insight in to the work and achievements of Enterprising Macclesfield was delivered with clarification that volunteers were being committed to administration which meant that there was less capacity for coaching and business support.

The presentation outlined the level of support given, number of clients, profile of businesses and performance against SLA.

As well as this, a proposal for the future delivery and sustainability of the project which outlined 3 years' of funding at £45,000 a year based on administration and marketing costs. This model will free up volunteer time to have greater value in terms of business support and coaching.

Members examined the proposal in detail seeking clarification on areas relating to business profiles, timescales for greater detail associated with business profiles and measurable outcomes, measurement of number of employees employed directly and indirectly.

Members particularly identified the high costs of administration as requiring greater scrutiny, justification and consideration for lower cost models.

It was expressed clearly that committed and highly skilled credible force of volunteers require greater administrative and marketing support and that any "plan B" would have lower expectations. It was clarified that the support would be sourced within Macclesfield.

Members sought that they would like to see the following additional information:

3 year business plan

Value of support expressed in jobs retained within supported businesses

Value of support expressed in jobs created within supported businesses

Value of support expressed in jobs retained within supplier chain businesses

Value of support expressed in jobs created within supplier chain businesses

Value to the economy (with clear methodology/formulae for calculation)

What models there are for future financial self-sustainability

Impact of such models (positive and/or negative)

The representatives for Make it Macclesfield were thanked for their time, detailed presentation and input and they left the meeting.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

5.1 Artspace – ADP Riot Tour £500

The Town Clerk introduced the application and clarified that members are asked to consider this application as a stand alone project which is using the structure of Artspace to facilitate the event and that any future application from Artspace should not take this application in to account. Members accepted this.

RESOLVED: That the grant is awarded

5.2 Tree House Christmas Dinner for vulnerable people - £500

RESOLVED: That the grant is awarded

5.3 Silk Life Foodbank - £1,000

Members commented on their support for the Foodbank service and recognised the hard work of the applicant. However, members also identified the application sought funding for staff salaries and it was felt that this did not demonstrate financial sustainability and was outside of the grant scheme's scope.

Members sought that the applicant might consider re-applying for other aspects or projects.

RESOLVED: That the grant is declined.

6. GRANT FEEBACK

6.1 Hope Street Angels (£420)

6.2 RSPB Macclesfield Wildlife Explorers (£250)

6.3 Brookfield Lane Allotment Society (£450)

6.4 Friends of Victoria Park (£500)

6.5 Just Drop In (£1,657.94)

6.6 Macclesfield Literary & Philosophical Society (£131)

6.7 Macclesfield Boys' Boxing Club (£2,000)

6.8 South Park Allotment Society (SparkAllot) (£2,000)

6.9 Macclesfield & District Canoe Club (£500)

The feedback was welcomed and noted.

7. SPEND TO DATE

The spend was noted prior to Full Council consideration.

8. MEMBER ITEMS

8.1 Grant Threshold

Cllr Jones introduced the idea of amending the grants scheme to reduce the highest grant award available to £1,000 and introduce a simpler grant application form for smaller grants.

Members discussed at length the opportunity to promote more small grants to the community as well as the value of providing larger grants.

Members also welcomed a review of the supporting material to help direct applicants to apply for smaller sums and identify clear match funding in order to make the scheme more accessible to the community.

RESOLVED:

- i. That a new smaller grants application form is drafted prior to Full Council on 28/11/16
- ii. That the policy is amended to promote smaller applications and identify the need to demonstrate clear match funding.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. BUDGET SETTING 2017/18

Members discussed at length each line item of the draft budget (v5), making recommendations and amendments to create draft v6 which will be circulated to all members. It was clarified that the final draft budget will be considered by the Finance Committee on 16/1/17 for recommendation to Full council on 23/1/17 for adoption of the budget for 2017/17.

11. AUDIT RESULT

The audit results were noted prior to formal consideration by Full Council.

12. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Finance Committee is 7pm, 16th January 2017 at **Macclesfield Library**.