



## **Macclesfield Town Council Finance Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

5.3 Cllr Wilcock declared a non-pecuniary declaration in Silk life food bank as he knows the manager on a personal level.

5.4 Cllr Bennet-Wake declared a non-pecuniary interest in Hurdsfield Phoenix, as she knows children and adults who attend.

### **Public Questions**

The meeting was adjourned to invite comments and questions from the public.

Mark Gleaves spoke about the Friends of West Park Grant, this will be for family events in West Park. They have done practice events, where many families engaged and enjoyed the events. They use recycled crayons, provide fruit and at the end of the event they will give out little prizes.

Cllr Harewood asked how many people attended, Mark replied between 70- 90 individuals have attended events (scavenger hunts).

Cllr Puttick asked how people found out about it, Mark replied on the noticeboard at the park and on the facebook page.

Cllr Hutchison, said he met the group first hand while litter picking for Britain in Bloom, and was impressed by the enthusiasm of the group.

Next, Dan Blackman, team led coordinator for Silklife foodbank, spoke on their grant application. He informed the committee that 50 agencies refer to them now,

and there has been a 39% increase in referrals in Jan 2023, as a result of the cost of living crisis. They had done a harvest appeal and Christmas appeal to prepare for this increase.

They have set up a period poverty team, a warm space open to everyone, and Pearls of Cheshire have requested an ethnic foodbank and they are going to invest £500 in this.

Jane Blackman, has been working with families and identified a need for baby resources, such as nappies. They started providing this in April 2022, and over 18,000 nappies have been given out since then. Again, there is an increase in Jan 2023. Feedback is very positive, helping those who are struggling financially. They are also creating weaning kits.

Cllr Puttick thanked the group for the help they are giving to children and families and asked if they are linked with the baby library, which they are.

Cllr Bennett- Wake, again thanked the group, and said that it is wonderful what they are helping those in need and the working poor. She also asked if any have costed disposable nappies with reusable nappies. Jane, replied that there is a scheme in place and they are trying to work with ANSA, about the voucher scheme they offer when you use reusable nappies.

Finally, Paul Mellor, spoke on behalf of Hurdsfield Phoenix football group, saying the grant would assist the club to keep running as they have 370 players and have to pay for pitches as they do not have their own pitch. They also wish to provide kits for the kids.

Cllr Harewood asked if it was open to all children or just Hurdsfield, which it is. She also asked what the gender balance split is. Paul replied 80% boys, 20% girls.

Cllr Hutchison asked how long the kits last, Paul replied they are all handed down to the next groups. He asked if they wash them themselves, which they do.

Cllr Wilson, thanked Paul and congratulations on the growth they have had, which is excellent and also said it was great they more girls are playing, and also for displaying the Macclesfield Town logo, which Paul said they are very proud to wear.

Cllr Bennett-Wake said that the grant was all encompassing, kits, pitches, safeguarding training and is a very well organised team.

Cllr Harewood, asked for posters so that she could advertise, Paul said he did not, as they advertised through the grassroots website and they reached many people.

The meeting was then be reconvened.

### **3 Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Resolved:** The minutes were approved.

## **4 Updates from the Minutes**

**Resolved:** There were no updates.

## **5 Grant Applications**

### **5.1 Friends of West Park**

**Resolved:** The grant application for £250 was approved.

### **5.2 Cheshire Streetwise**

**Resolved:** This grant application was withdrawn.

### **5.3 Silk Life Foodbank**

**Resolved:** The grant application for £2000 was approved.

### **5.4 Hurdsfield Phoenix**

**Resolved:** The grant application for £2000 was approved.

## **6 Grant Updates**

### **6.1 Refugees Welcome**

The report was noted.

### **6.2 Scoop and Scales**

The report was noted.

### **6.3 Macclesfield Cricket Club**

The report was noted.

### **6.4 Macclesfield Boys Boxing Club**

The report was noted. Cllr Wilson spoke on this item, and thanked the MBBC for their detailed report on how the grants have been spent. As Mayor, Cllr Wilson attended a boxing tournament in Feb 2023, and said she was very impressed with the approach in discipline and respect for others. Cllr Wilson also said that the girls who the granted assisted to go to Ireland, who all won their bouts.

Cllr Bennett-Wake did state that they maybe should rebrand, as they have girls there, and Cllr Wilson did add that this is under discussion.

### **6.5 Macclesfield Music Centre**

The report was noted.

## **7 Ward Budgets**

The ward budget applications were approved.

## **8 Finances**

### **8.1 Spend to Date**

**Resolved:** The spend to date (DEC 22) of £692,904 was approved for recommendation to Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **8.2 Reports**

**Resolved:** The following reports were noted:

**8.2.1 Income and Expenditure**

**8.2.2 Bank Reconciliation**

**8.2.3 Receipts and Payments**

**8.2.4 Authorised Payments**

**8.2.5 Internal Audit Report.**

## **9 Date/Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held at 7pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023, at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Chair: Cllr Neil Puttick

Clerk: Laura Smith

Meeting closed: 8:22pm