Minutes of a Meeting of the Grant Review Sub-Committee

held at The Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets Unit

on Monday 22nd April 2024 @ 6pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS)

Councillors: C. A. Sharp (Chair)

L. J. Bridges N. Harteveld G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

Observer Miss K. F. Gray

Ms S. Henehan

Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager,

Pembrokeshire County Council

Mrs B. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

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Ms S. Henehan, Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, was welcomed to the meeting of the Grant Review Sub-Committee.

376.Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey and D. R. Sinnett.

377. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREst

No declarations of interest were received.

378. TO RECEIVE ms S. henehan, community safety, poverty and regeneration manager, pembrokeshire county council

Ms Henehan stated at the outset that she would be willing to attend further meetings as required.

Ms Henehan listed some considerations for the Town Council to consider during their grant review.

Priorities for the Council: what does the council want to fund moving forward; what differences does the Town Council wish to make; do the Town Council want to keep funding the same organisations. Consulting with the public on their views, and considering themes – young, environmental, physical, tidy towns.

A Councillor mentioned that some organisations are precepted in January which ties the Town Council’s hands. Some organisations have received grants for a long-time and they should not expect grants going forward.

Ms Henehan mentioned that a similar situation had arisen where a large cohort of organisations had received money each year. The organisations had to be informed that in 12 months, or 24 months that funding will no longer be available. Pembrokeshire County Council now only fund for 1 year, or fund 1 organisation. Some cornerstone organisations will face serious problems due to the serious fiscal situation we are facing. If the Town Council consider no longer funding long term organisations it is important to let them know.

A Councillor proposed that a letter be sent to all organisations currently funded to advise of possible changes.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** letters are to be sent to all organisations currently funded to advise of possible changes.

Ms Henehan mentioned that the Future Generations Well-Being themes are good considerations.

The Town Council may choose to fund an organisation to save it from closure. Whilst there would be no guarantee of funding for organisations discussion may continue. A blanket policy would not be necessary.

Councillor Declarations of Interest are very important. Whether to leave the room while a discussion goes ahead for a grant that you have an interest in; whether to stay and not vote, stay and debate the matter: the choice is for the Councillors.

A Councillor suggested that the Town Council fund groups that give back to the community; to the benefit of Milford Haven.

A Councillor questioned whether the Town Council should give grants to national organisations over local organisations. Ms Henehan noted that sometimes a national organisation could be more beneficial (more trained). Ms Henehan also noted that some national organisations have projects locally. Local is not always best.

A Councillor suggested that if new organisations applied for grant funding and the Town Council had to make a choice between them and a currently funded organisation the Town Council could ask the public. It could be an idea to use social media polls.

Ms Henehan suggested granting ‘core costs’. If an organisation needs £3000 for annual core costs – heating, electricity etc, then that amount only could be granted.

The Town Council could consider funding some organisations but for different projects. The Council could ask organisations how they benefit from the grant they receive, and how much of the grant money was critical.

A Councillor raised the issue of bank statements not giving an accurate account. Sometimes there is a large amount in the bank which is ring fenced but the grant funder would not know that.

Pembrokeshire County Council do not take into account how much money is in an account. The grant application only is considered. Town Councillors should be trained in assessing the applications. Criteria – scoring system. Proof of a bank account for an organisation with a recognised bank can be enough.

The Panel who decides who gets the grants (after the scoring system has been carried out) does not see any bank statements. Pembrokeshire County Council pays grants up front and also retrospectively. They also give match funding grants.

A Councillor raised that core costs and project specific costs can be considered. There could possibly be two pots of grant funding available. Further discussion is required.

Ms S. Henehan was thanked for attending the meeting. Ms Henehan reiterated her wish to attend a further meeting if the Town Council so wish.

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