



**MINUTES** of the **GRANTS PANEL MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023** at 19.00 hours.

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**Present:** Matthew Goldsmith Chairman

Brenda Williams  
Chris Cherry  
Janice Henwood  
Mathew Cornish

**Also Present:** Tofojjul Hussain  
Adam White

*\* Denotes non-attendance*

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(19.00)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. OPEN FORUM**

There were representatives from St Edward's Wives, Mid Sussex Voluntary Action (MSVA), Burgess Hill Swift Supporters and Sussex Chorus, as well as a member of the public present.

The representative from Sussex Chorus informed the Councillors they had been fortunate to receive several large donations from supporters last year, which had helped to lift their reserves but that to hold a concert cost within the region of £7,000. It was stated that to keep ticket costs accessible to the whole community, they relied on grants.

The representative from St Edward's Wives provided the panel some background on the organisation and stated that originally, they met in the church but due to a membership increase, they now used the 8<sup>th</sup> Scout Hut, adjacent to the church. They also stated that it was not cost effective to use the church building due to running costs, such as heating. They added they were financially reliant on funds from members, many of whom were elderly, so they would be unable to fund a trip for themselves.

The representative from Burgess Hill Swift Supporters informed the Councillors that they had fitted 17 boxes that day alone, and that there were a further 4 going up later in the week. She stated that swifts were a protected species and unfortunately new-build houses did not provide suitable nesting for them. They added that, according to monitoring, Burgess Hill had a significantly large number of swifts which returned year on year and needed suitable nesting sites. It was stated they were also supporting a local organisation, namely Burgess Hill Shed, who had been building the swift boxes.

The representative from MSVA informed the Councillors that despite their finances they were a very 'lean' organisation and their accounts were healthy due to covid grants; but that they would no longer be able to apply for such grants since the end of the pandemic. They added that they supported many organisations across Burgess Hill, and Mid Sussex, including many who had applied for a grant from Burgess Hill Town Council. She stated that nationally there had been a drop in volunteer numbers, but locally they had seen an upturn in volunteering from 16–18-year-olds, who were struggling to find work, but wanted to add additional skills to their CVs. She added that many businesses did not allow staff to take volunteer days and that partly the grant would allow them the resources to access businesses and start the conversation to change their practices.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Councillor Chris Cherry was elected as Vice Chairman of the Grants Key Area Group.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**4. SUBSTITUTES**

There were none.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Henwood declared a personal interest in the Summerhaven application as their chairman.

**6. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**7. MINOR GRANTS PHASE 1 2023**

The Panel resolved to award the following amounts:

Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Respect Youth Club	£900	£900
Summerhaven	£700	£700
Sussex Chorus	£1,000	£700
Windmill Opportunity Playgroup	£1,000	£1,000
Friends of Sheddingdean School Association (FOSSA)	£1,000	Green Fund £1,000
St Edward's Wives	£1,000	£1,000
Burgess Hill Swift Supporters	£972	Green Fund £972
4sight	£1,000	£500
MSVA	£1,000	£1,000
Heritage and History Association	£862.00	£500
	£9,434.00	£8,272

It was requested that FOSSA provided confirmation of other grants received, and that the funds were spent within 6 months of being awarded. It was also requested that they provide a signed copy the latest accounts when requesting payment of the grant.

It was requested that Burgess Hill Swift Supporters provide evidence of spend within six months of the award, as they were a newly formed group.

## RESOLUTION

The Grants will be awarded as agreed by the Panel, above. A total of £6,300 was allocated from the Minor Grants Fund and £1,972 from the Green Grants Fund.

Meeting terminated at 19.48 hours.