

BurgessHill Town Council

MINUTES of the **GRANTS PANEL MEETING** held in the Council Chamber on **THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2023** at 19.00 hours.

Present: Matthew Goldsmith Chairman
Brenda Williams
Chris Cherry*
Janice Henwood
Matthew Cornish

Also Present: Tofojjul Hussain
Simon Hicks

* *Denotes non-attendance*

(19.00)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

8. OPEN FORUM

There were representatives from The Friends of Woodlands Meed, The Guide Hall Committee, BH Flower Club, The Community Garden, BH Creative Community and Mid Sussex Radio present.

Representatives from Home-StartCHAMS, Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex and Burgess Hill Marching Youth were unable to attend but sent apologies.

The representative from The Community Garden spoke on their application, stating they had had interest from many organisations and charities who would like to be involved with the project and that they would like to engage with people of all ages. They stated the project was in an area of deprivation and they also informed the Panel that their unrestricted funds were very minimal and they had applied for other grants.

The representative from BH Creative Community informed the committee that membership had increased to 118 since the application had been made.

The representative from the Guide Hall Committee stated that the money within their account was built up over years of fundraising and hall hire fees. They added that the hall needed a new roof and that was at an estimated cost of £25,000, they hoped to also install solar panels when that work took place. They informed the Panel that they were

using a local firm for the work and the gates were being replaced like for like but were being re-sited for safety reasons.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologises were received from Cllr Christine Cherry.

10. SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Hicks substituted for Cllr Cherry.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Henwood declared a personal interest in the Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle application as chairman and in interest in the BH Creative Community application as a member of the organisation.

Councillors Hicks and Williams declared an interest in the Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle application as members of the organisation.

12. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

13. MINOR GRANTS PHASE 2 2023

The Panel resolved to award the following amounts:

Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity	£368	£0
Burgess Hill Flower Club	£1,000	£1000
Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex	£500	£0
Home-StartCHAMS	£1,000	£500
Kangaroos Mid Sussex	£1,000	£1000
Burgess Hill Rugby Football Club	£1,000	£1000
TIME 4 CHILDREN	£1,000	£500
Burgess Hill Marching Youth	£1,000	£1000
Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (SASBAH)	£800	£400
Mid Sussex Radio	£1,000	£500
St Peter & St James Hospice	£1,000	£500
Friends of Burgess Hill Green Circle	£486	£486 Green
Family Support Work	£780	£780
BH Creative Community	£1,000	£1000

BH Artists	£400	£400
Total	£12,334	£8580 £486 Green

The panel requested that Mid Sussex Radio provide a copy of their signed accounts when making their claim. They also requested BH Artists provide a signed copy of financial information.

RESOLUTION The Grants will be provisionally awarded as agreed by the Panel above, and is subject to the extra funds, of £3724, being made available at the Finance Key Area Group and Full Council meetings in November, as set out in the agenda. A total of £8580 was allocated from the Minor Grants Fund.

£486 was allocated from the Green Grants Fund, which was not subject to the Finance Key Area Group or Council meetings as it was within the allocated green budget.

14. MAJOR GRANTS 2023

The Panel resolved to award the following amounts:

Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Burgess Hill Guide and Brownie Association	£3,450	£2000
The Community Garden	£8,000	£7102 Green
Age UK	£2,399	£1000
BH Marching Youth (BHMY)	£1,170	£1170
Total	£15,019.00	£4170 £7120 Green

RESOLUTION The Grants will be provisionally awarded as agreed by the Panel, above, and is subject to the extra funds, of £3724, being made available at the Finance Key Area Group and Full Council meetings in November, as set out in the agenda. A total of £4170 was allocated from the Major Grants Fund.

£7102 was allocated from the Green Grants Fund, which was not subject to the Finance Key Area Group or Council meetings as it was within the allocated green budget.

15. COMPLETED GRANT EVALUATIONS

The Panel were asked to note the information from past applications, which was provided via the evaluation forms at Appendix 3.

RECOMMENDATION The Panel noted the information in Appendix 3. The Panel felt in information was helpful and said it was great to see the success of the applicants' projects.

16. **GRANTS ANNUAL BUDGET**

The Panel were asked to consider the annual grant allocation of £12,000 and request an increase in this amount, via the Finance Key Area Group, if they felt it was not sufficient considering the number of recent applications.

The Panel discussed the need to support local organisations with grants. They suggested that the funds should be increased but ring fenced for different purposes. The Panel discussed that the increase may need to be taken from other areas and stated they did not wish the increased budget to be at the deficit of the Community Engagement budget, as the events benefit the wider community.

RECOMMENDATION The Panel requested an increased budget for 2024/25 to a total budget of £40,000, broken down into;
Minor Grants fund £20,000
Major Grants fund £10,000
Green Grant fund £10,000

The Panel requested the above amounts be considered by the Finance Key Area Group at their budget meeting.

Meeting terminated at 19.52 hours.