

# Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE



Listening Learning Leading

## **Communities Capital Grant Scheme Panel**

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON, ABINGDON, OX14 4SB

### **Present**

David Dodds (Chairman)

Pat Dawe, Stefan Gawrysiak, Imran Lokhon and Richard Pullen

### **Apologies:**

Joan Bland, Paul Harrison and Jeannette Matelot tendered apologies.

### **Officers**

Carole Cumming, Sophie Milton and Ron Schrieber

### **Also present:**

Councillor Lorraine Hillier

### **1 Election of Chairman**

David Dodds was elected chairman of the Panel for the municipal year 2015/16.

### **2 Declaration of interests**

Stefan Gawrysiak declared an interest in the applications from Henley Town Council and Henley Rugby Football Club as he was a ward councillor, a member of Henley Town Council and a member of the skatepark committee.

Imran Lokhon declared an interest in the application from Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd as he was a ward councillor.

### **3 Community Capital Grants - grant policy and procedures rules**

The grant policy and procedure rules were noted.

## **4 Minimum score requirements**

The panel agreed to apply the following scoring system when recommending grant awards for this round of funding:

- 120 points or more – 100% of the sum requested:
- 90 to 119 points – no more than 80% of the sum requested:
- 89 points or less – no award.

## **5 Bids for funding for the Community Capital Grants scheme and officer recommendations**

The panel heard addresses from representatives of the applicants and from ward councillors and answers to their questions as summarised below.

### **Henley Town Council – Skatepark improvements**

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak stepped down from the panel to speak in support of the application together with Councillor Lorraine Hillier, ward councillor and Henley Town councillor and Colin Brathwaite from the skatepark committee.

They reported that Henley Town Council had agreed to contribute £75,000 towards the project, which was identified in the 2015 neighbourhood plan. Both the town and district councils had approved the planning application unanimously.

The aim was to replace the ageing and partially decommissioned fibre-glass skatepark with a state-of-the-art concrete structure that was sunk into the ground. The skatepark committee had already carried out a satisfactory noise study and the site would be landscaped to minimise noise further.

The skate park would be utilised by other sports such as BMX and specific time slots would be allocated for different age groups/people with disabilities/coaching.

### **Stoke Row Parish Council – Play area improvements**

Sara O’Byrne and Catherine Hale from the parish council, spoke in support of the project. They explained that the current play area was well used, but had been deteriorating for some time to the point where it was becoming unsafe in places. Because of changes in space/safety standards, it was necessary to replace the entire play area rather than replacing equipment piecemeal.

They outlined the extensive consultation undertaken with the community including primary school children and an online survey.

### **Great Milton Recreation Ground – Play area improvements**

Andrew Noble and Emily Johns, on behalf of Great Milton Recreation Ground Committee, circulated the following submission:

“We are disappointed that prior work commitments prevent us from both coming to the meeting today. We have both appeared before SODC Grants Committees before and had very much hoped to be there in person to answer any queries that might arise and share our enthusiasm for this project.

You will note that we are still to secure a substantial contribution from WREN, and we anticipate a decision regarding this on 25 November 2015. We have applied for £27,046 plus the VAT payable on this project, which is an additional £17,454.

Our earlier application to WREN in 2013/2014 was successful, however at that time, we did not have the required designated amount for third party funding already in place.

For this current application, the amount required by WREN (£5,500) has already been secured, and we now have an experienced project manager in place to see this project through to successful fruition.”

### **Stoke Row Village Hall – Kitchen and toilet improvements**

In the absence of a representative from the applicants, the grants officer briefly outlined the proposal to demolish and rebuild the existing extension which was falling away from the main hall.

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith, a ward councillor, had written in support of the application.

### **The Watlington Club CIO – Refurbishment of facilities**

Dave Parks, on behalf of the Watlington Club CIO reported that the club provided a wide range of activities and facilities for the whole of Watlington and the wider area. There were over 400 members of tennis, bowls and squash and up to 150 children used the dance studio. The bar/restaurant would be reopened in October; free usage of the function room was available to community groups and one of the buildings was also the home to local cubs/scouts groups.

He reported that some facilities such as squash courts could be booked at any time of day and on the steps taken to encourage membership applications.

### **Oxford City Football Club (Berinsfield) – Equipment purchases and facility improvements**

Dr Mark Hinnells, on behalf of Oxford City Football Club (Berinsfield) reported on the project to convert a warehouse into a 30,000 sq ft sports arena, primarily for futsal and basketball with disabled equivalents of both sports. The club had excellent links with the FA and Basketball England and both were keen to establish a regional centre of excellence.

### **Henley Rugby Football Club – Clubhouse refurbishment and extension**

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak stepped down from the panel to speak in support of the application together with Councillor Lorraine Hillier, ward councillor and Henley Town councillor. Chris Nixon and Mike Trethewey from the rugby club also spoke in support of the application.

They reported that the Rugby Football Union had encouraged clubs to review their facilities and that, to date, the membership had raised £110,000 towards its target contribution of £200,000 with every likelihood that the full amount would be reached.

The club received over 2,000 visitors per week, approximately half of which were non-rugby related. It was the only venue in the area that could accommodate 200 seated guests.

Henley Town Council supported the application which was on the town council's land. A meeting between the club and the town council to discuss the latter's financial contribution was being held this evening.

### **Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd – Equipment purchase**

Councillor Imran Lokhon stepped down from the panel to speak in support of the application together with Tony Wheel from the rowing club.

Tony Wheel reported that the club's 300 members ranged from 13 – 86 years of age and that over half the membership was female. The junior waiting list (13-18) had increased from 70 at the time of the application to 94 currently and the proposed purchase of five boats would allow the club to take on approximately 25 new members.

Junior membership fees were £324 per annum but there was a fund to provide financial assistance where possible.

## **6 Panel review scores**

The panel considered the applications, taking into account the report of the grants officer on each application, the presentations from the registered public speakers and ward councillors and site photographs.

Using the agreed scoring criteria and taking account the grant officer's provisional scores, the panel awarded scores for each application.

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak stepped down from the panel and took no part in the scoring of the applications from Henley Town Council and Henley Rugby Football Club.

Councillor Imran Lokhon stepped down from the panel and took no part in the scoring of the application from Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd.

After discussion the panel agreed the provisional scores for the Henley Town Council, Stoke Row Parish Council and Great Milton Recreation Ground applications but agreed the following amendments listed below:

### **Stoke Row Village Hall**

Increase local need score from 15 to 20 points

### **The Watlington Club CIO**

Increase broadening the range score from 10 to 15 points

### **Oxford City Football Club (Berinsfield)**

Increase project viability score from 50 to 60 points

Increase community benefit score from 15 to 17 points

Increase local need score from 15 to 20 points

### Henley Rugby Football Club

Increase project viability score from 40 to 60 points

Increase community benefit score from 15 to 20 points

Increase local need score from 10 to 15 points

Increase community participation score from 10 to 15 points

### Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd

Increase community benefit score from 5 to 15 points

Increase broadening the range score from 5 to 15 points

Increase local need score from 5 to 15 points

Increase community participation score from 5 to 15 points

The final scores as agreed were

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Finance (max 15)</b>	<b>Community benefit (max 20)</b>	<b>Broadening the range (max 20)</b>	<b>Local need (max 20)</b>	<b>Community participation (max 20)</b>	<b>Project viability (max 20)</b>	<b>Total (out of 155)</b>
CCG O/14	Henley Town Council	Skatepark improvements	10	15	15	20	20	50	<b>130</b>
CCG O/22	Stoke Row Parish Council	Play area improvements	5	15	15	20	20	55	<b>130</b>
CCG O/6	Great Milton Recreation Ground	Play area improvements	5	15	15	20	20	50	<b>125</b>
CCG O/16	Stoke Row Village Hall	Kitchen and toilet improvements	5	20	15	20	15	50	<b>125</b>
CCG O/24	The Watlington Club CIO	Refurbishment of facilities	5	15	15	10	20	60	<b>125</b>
CCG O/16	Oxford City Football Club (Berinsfield)	Equipment purchases and facility improvements	5	17	15	20	15	60	<b>132</b>
CCG O/13	Henley Rugby Football Club	Clubhouse refurbishment and extension	10	20	15	15	15	60	<b>135</b>
CCG O/32	Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd	Equipment purchase	5	15	15	15	15	60	<b>125</b>

## 7 Award recommendations

**RESOLVED:** to recommend the Cabinet Member for development management, building control and housing:

1. to award Henley Town Council up to £100,000 towards the skatepark improvements set out in their application;
2. to award Stoke Row Parish Council up to £28,950 towards the play area improvements and to include a special condition requiring them to carry out a ROSPA (or similar) inspection;
3. to award Great Milton Recreation Ground up to £49,037 towards the play area improvements and to include a special condition requiring them to carry out a ROSPA (or similar) inspection;
4. to award Stoke Row Village Hall up to £53,700 towards kitchen and toilet improvements and to include a special condition requiring them to let the council's leisure team book up to 30 hours free use per year for five years;
5. to award The Watlington Club CIO up to £39,028 towards refurbishment of facilities and to include a special condition requiring them to let the council's leisure team book up to 30 hours free use per year for five years;
6. to award Oxford City Football Club (Berinsfield) up to £51,691 towards equipment purchases and facilities improvements and to include a special condition requiring them to let the council's leisure team book up to 30 hours free use per year for five years;
- 7 to award Henley Rugby Football Club up to £100,000 towards clubhouse refurbishment and extension and to include a special condition requiring them to let the council's leisure team book up to 30 hours free use per year for five years;
- 8 to award Wallingford Rowing Club Ltd up to £21,360 towards equipment purchase.

The meeting closed at 1.25 pm

Chairman

Date