

Minutes



OF A MEETING OF THE

Listening Learning Leading

Community Investment Fund Panel

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH
GIFFORD

Present:

Mr Will Hall (Chairman)

Mr Roger Bell, Ms Joan Bland, Mrs Elizabeth Gillespie, Mrs Eleanor Hards,
Mr Malcolm Leonard, Ms Lynn Lloyd, Mrs Ann Midwinter (as substitute for
Mr Mark Gray), Mr Alan Rooke, Mrs Pearl Slatter, and Mrs Jennifer Wood

Apologies:

Mr Mark Gray and Miss Rachel Wallis tendered apologies.

Officers:

Mrs Jayne Bolton, Ms Carole Cumming, Mrs Jennifer Thompson and
Mrs Sally Truman

Also present:

Mr John Cotton and Mrs Ann Ducker, MBE

1 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

Mrs E Gillespie informed the committee that she could consider the application by the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society without bias or predetermination as while she sat on the parish council and knew people who had donated to the project, she had no involvement.

Mrs J Thompson, Democratic Services Officer, informed the committee that she lived in Chalgrove, where two of the applications were sited, and knew the speakers.

2 Addresses to the committee

The committee heard addresses from the applicants, ward councillors, and other registered speakers as summarised below.

Sandford on Thames Parish Council

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to redevelop the village hall to provide improved community facilities in the village. These would include a refurbished hall, community shop and community pub. They answered questions from the committee.

Mr John Cotton, ward councillor, spoke in support of the application.

St John the Evangelist, Stoke Row, Parochial Church Council

Two representatives of the parish church spoke in support of the application for a grant to provide a kitchen and toilet in an extension to the church building to improve facilities for the school, church, and wider community. They answered questions from the committee.

East Hagbourne Parish Council

One representative of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to replace the pavilion to provide satisfactory changing facilities. He answered questions from the committee.

Warborough Parish Council

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to refurbish the Greet Hall to provide a modern, more energy efficient large meeting space for the community. They answered questions from the committee.

St Mary's Church, Chalgrove

Two representatives of the parish church spoke in support of the application for a grant to reorder and renovate the interior of the church to provide a space for community groups, music and drama performances, and better facilities for tourists viewing the medieval ward paintings. They answered questions from the committee.

Chalgrove Parish Council

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to replace and increase the play equipment on the recreation ground to provide up to date equipment for a wider age range. They answered questions from the committee.

The clerk read out a written statement from Mr David Turner, ward councillor, supporting the application.

Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Community Society Limited

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to redevelop the dining room at the Seven Stars community pub to provide increased space for dining, increase the viability of the pub, and generate funding for the longer-term aims of the Society. They answered questions from the committee.

Mrs Elizabeth Gillespie, ward councillor, spoke in support of the application.

The Friends of Horspath

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to purchase the former Methodist chapel for use as a community building. They answered questions from the committee.

Parish Councillor Mr Harris explained that the extant planning permission for the extension to the village hall would not provide the same facilities, and outlined the parish council's commitments which prevented it from purchasing the chapel. He said that there was strong community support for the project. He answered questions from the committee.

Mr Roger Bell, ward councillor, spoke in support of the application.

The clerk read out a written statement from Mrs Janet Carr, ward councillor, supporting the application.

Great Milton Recreation Ground

Representatives of the recreation ground committee were unable to attend.

Thame Players Theatre Company

Two representatives of the theatre company spoke in support of the application for a grant to improve the heating, improve access to a larger stage, and reorder the balcony to improve access and sight lines in the existing theatre building to allow the company to stage a wider variety of productions and increase capacity. They answered questions from the committee.

Mrs Ann Midwinter, ward councillor, spoke in support of the application.

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

Two representatives of the parish council spoke in support of the application for a grant to replace the existing village hall, which was reaching the end of its life, to provide a modern community facility and satisfactory changing facilities for sports teams using the adjacent pitches. They answered questions from the committee.

The committee adjourned at 12.30pm.

3 Briefing

The chairman reconvened the meeting at 1.05pm.

Mrs Jayne Bolton, Grants Team Leader, reminded members of the Panel of the main points they should consider and the scoring criteria they must use in making their recommendations for the award of grants from the Community Investment Fund. The Leader of the Council would then formally consider the Panel's recommendations and either make the decision to award grants under her delegated powers, or refer the decision to Cabinet if she was so minded.

4 Bids for funding from the Community Investment Fund

The Panel considered the applications for funding from the Community Investment Fund over £15,000 capital awards scheme, taking into account the reports of the Grants Team Leader on each application, the presentations from the registered public speakers, and the visits to each site carried out on 18 and 20 June 2013.

The Community Investment Fund Grant applications considered were:

Applicant	Project summary	Estimated project cost £	Requested amount £	Percentage Requested %
East Hagbourne Parish Council	Replacement village pavilion	364,559	100,000	27.43
Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council	Community hub and village centre	506,566	100,000	19.74
Chalgrove Parish Council	Play area improvements	139,066	80,000	57.53
Thame Players Theatre Company	Improvements to staging, seating heating and lighting	203,210	100,000	49.21
The Friends of Horspath (charity)	Purchase of Horspath Methodist chapel	301,080	100,000	33.21
Baldons and Nuneham Community Society	Extension to dining room community pub (Seven Stars) in Marsh Baldon	70,600	42,000	59.49
Warborough Parish Council	Re-roofing Greet Memorial Hall	50,242	25,121	50.00
Beckley and Stowood Parish Council	Replacement village hall	587,531	100,000	17.02
St Mary's Church, Chalgrove	Internal renovations to church for community use	418,758	83,750	20.00
Great Milton Recreation Ground	Improvements to the recreation ground	83,922	50,353	60.00
St John the Evangelist Church, Stoke Row	Extension to provide kitchen and toilet	145,000	58,000	40.00
Total		2,870,534	839,224	

Scores for each application

The Panel discussed the Grants Team Leader's provisional scores for each application under each criterion and amended a number of these.

The Panel agreed final scores as follows:

Community Investment Fund Grant applications 2013	Community benefit	Broadening the range	Meeting a local need	Community participation	Project viability	Finance	Total
East Hagbourne Parish Council	20	20	20	20	55	10	145
Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council	20	20	20	20	40	15	135
Chalgrove Parish Council	15	15	20	20	55	5	130
Thame Players Theatre Company	20	15	15	15	50	5	120
The Friends of Horspath (charity)	20	20	15	15	40	10	120
Baldons and Nuneham Community Society	10	15	10	15	60	5	115
Warborough Parish Council	20	15	15	5	50	5	110
Beckley and Stowood Parish Council	20	20	15	15	20	15	105
St Mary's Church, Chalgrove	15	10	10	10	40	15	100
Great Milton Recreation Ground	15	15	15	5	40	5	95
St John the Evangelist Stoke Row	10	10	5	5	20	10	60

Cut off score and recommendation of awards

Cabinet had agreed on 13 February 2012 to make no award to applications scoring 90 points or less and an award of 80 per cent of requested funding to applications scoring between 91 and 119 points when considering the under £15,000 capital grant scheme bids.

The Panel considered that while four of the bids scored between 100 and 120 points, these were very good projects which were capable of success if fully supported and would bring a significant benefit to their communities. The Panel considered that awarding only 80 per cent of the amount requested would increase the probability

that these projects would not be completed because of a shortfall in funding. The Panel therefore agreed to fully fund all bids scoring 100 points and above.

The Panel decided to award 80 per cent of the requested funding to Great Milton Recreation Ground and 50 per cent of the requested funding to St John the Evangelist Church. The Panel considered that these proposals were of sufficient merit to award funding and these awards would enable the projects to progress. However the Panel did not have sufficient evidence to persuade them that the community fully supported the proposals put forward, and in the case of St John the Evangelist that there was sufficient demand for the facilities, and so did not wish to commit a larger sum to these.

The Panel agreed to recommend imposing conditions on the awards to safeguard the investment of public funds as recommended by the Grants Team Leader.

The Panel agreed to recommend that the rest of the allocation to the Community Investment Fund grants scheme be set aside for the award of capital grants of under £15,000.

Resolved:

1. to recommend that the Leader of the Council awards £800,153 of grants with conditions as follows:

East Hagbourne Parish Council – to award 27.43 per cent of the £364,559 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £100,000** towards the replacement village pavilion as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- a legal restriction will be placed against the registered title of the property
- the council will have access to the facility for three consecutive days of free sports usage over the school summer holidays
- the new building will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council – to award 19.74 per cent of the £506,566 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £100,000** towards the extension to the village hall to create a community hub as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- a legal restriction will be placed against the registered title of the property
- the new building will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Chalgrove Parish Council – to award 57.53 per cent of the £139,066 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £80,000** towards the replacement of an existing and provision of an additional play area as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- a legal restriction will be placed against the registered title of the property
- the new play areas will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Thame Players Theatre Company – to award 49.21 per cent of the £203,210 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £100,000** towards the improvements to the theatre as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- a legal restriction will be placed against the registered title of the property
- the improved facility will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Friends of Horspath– to award 33.21 per cent of the £301,080 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £100,000** towards the purchase of Horspath Methodist Chapel as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- the council will place the first legal charge against the registered title of the property
- the building will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer
- the grant will only be available for a period of six months from the date of the grant award

Baldons and Nuneham Community Society – to award 59.49 per cent of the £70,600 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £42,000** towards the improvements to the community pub as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- the council will register a legal charge against the registered title of the property
- the improved facility will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Warborough Parish Council – to award 50.00 per cent of the £50,242 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £25,121** towards the modernisation of the hall as detailed in the application with the following condition:

- the improved facility will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council – to award 17.02 per cent of the £587,531 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £100,000** towards the replacement village hall as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- a legal restriction will be placed on the registered title of the property
- the council will have access to the facility for three consecutive days of free sports usage over the school summer holidays
- the new building will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

St Mary's Church, Chalgrove – to award 20.00 per cent of the £418,758 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £83,750** towards the improvements to the Church as detailed in the application with the following condition:

- the improved facility will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

Great Milton Recreation Ground – to award 48.00 per cent of the £83,922 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £40,282¹** towards the replacement play equipment as detailed in the application with the following conditions:

- the new play area will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer
- that suitable equipment for disabled children is included in the project, as agreed with the grants officer

St John the Evangelist Church, Stoke Row – to award 20.00 per cent of the £145,000 estimated scheme costs, up to a **maximum of £29,000²** towards the extension to provide a toilet and kitchenette as detailed in the application with the following condition:

- the improved facility will be formally opened by the chairman of the council unless otherwise agreed with the grants officer

2. to recommend that the Leader of the Council allocates £299,847 to the under £15,000 capital grant scheme for 2013/14 from the £1,100,000 transferred to the approved capital programme for 2013/14.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm

Chairman

Date

¹ This is 80% of the £50,353 requested in the application

² This is 50% of the £58,000 requested in the application