

MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE held at The Guildhall,
Faversham, on Tuesday 25 June 2019

Present:

Cllr K Barker
Cllr D Knights

Cllr B J Martin
Cllr J Saunders

Cllr T Martin

In Attendance:

L Bareham

13. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Hook, Belsom, Thomas

14. **Declarations of Interest**

None

15. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the minutes***

16. **Councillor Auditing**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Barker undertakes monthly auditing***

17. **12 Market Place**

Cllr B J Martin noted it was generally felt the purchase of the building was not done in an open way. He proposed that an independent valuation of the property be obtained in order for the Committee to make recommendations to Council for its future use. Cllr Barker agreed the need for transparency and to consider costs and alternatives. Cllr Saunders agreed the options needed to maximise the value of the building to the local community. Potential uses mentioned were an information centre – where the library was reducing hours, people needed to go online and Cllr Knights suggested the Town Council office moved downstairs with upstairs rented out.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would put together different proposals for consideration by the Committee

18. **Forward Planning Workshop**

It was agreed that this would be held on 5th August. It is not a public meeting.

19. **Grants**

It was noted that the current budget showed a negative balance of £21,000 and only £26,000 had been budgeted for grants for 2019/20.

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to allocate the whole grant budget and not hold a second application process.***

Cllr B J Martin asked Members if they wished to hear from any applicant before reaching a decision. Cllr Barker felt there was a clear grant policy to measure against and Cllr Saunders agreed the process was transparent and an extra opportunity to 'pitch' would not be fair. Cllr B J Martin therefore confirmed that he would not use his Chair's discretion to allow members of the public to speak.

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it ***RECOMMENDED to make the full grant request to Citizens Advice Swale £5,000, SATEDA £4,500, Faversham Mission Brass £929 and a reduced grant to FACE £3,000.***

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED to make a grant of £460 to Abbeyfields Residents Association***

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr B J Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED to make a grant of 56% requested to the festivals – Hop Festival, Carnival, Christmas Lights, Literary Festival and Nautical Festival.***

Cllr T Martin felt that the Rugby Association's applications would be better directed to specific sports grants, such as the Sports Council or SBC's Sports Grant and he would be happy to signpost them.

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED not to make a grant to Faversham Rugby Union Club***

It was suggested that the Town Council should have a specific sport/health budget in the future.

Cllr Barker felt neither Loosely Woven nor Countrywide Productions added enough value.

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Saunders and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED not to make a grant to Loosely Woven or Countrywide Productions.***

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RECOMMENDED to grant Faversham Umbrella the remaining funds of £2,821 (which was also 56% of their application)***

Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations for grants.

Cllr Saunders congratulated Cllr B J Martin for undertaking the procedure using the clear objectives of the grant policy. Cllr B J Martin confirmed it was tricky as so many groups were doing good things the budget needed to be stretched to make the biggest difference.

Abbeyfield Residents Association	£460
Citizens Advice Swale	£5,000
Countrywide Productions	£0
FACE	£3,000
Faversham Carnival Parade	£1,970.61
Faversham Christmas Lights	£2,815.16
Faversham Hop Festival	£2,815.16
Faversham Literary Festival	£563.03
Faversham Mission Brass	£929
Faversham Nautical Festival	£1,126.07
Faversham Rugby Union Club Pirates (Youth Development)	£0
Faversham Umbrella	£2,821
Faversham Women's Rugby	£0
Loosely Woven Theatre	£0
SATEDA	£4,500

20. **Any Other Business**

None

It was proposed by the Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting ***It was RESOLVED under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.***

21. **12 Market Place**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the current redemption figure on the PWL was £1.5m.