

SE.9

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE CIVIC HALL,
WANTAGE ON TUESDAY,
13TH MARCH, 2007**

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillor Terry Cox (Chairman), Richard Farrell (Vice-Chair), Elsa Boyce, Terry Fraser, Eddy Goldsmith, Joyce Hutchinson, Jim Moley, Ginnie Stock, Margaret Turner and Derek Verdin.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lorna Edwards, Carole Nicholl and Toby Warren.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Nil

SE.20 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were recorded from Councillors Andrew Crawford, John Dunsdon, Jenny Hannaby, David Philips, Richard Stone and Pam Westwood.

SE.21 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the South East Area Committee held on 12 September 2006 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jim Moley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in report 166/06 in so far as it related to a grant application from the Wantage Summer Festival for which he was an Officer (Minute SE.26 refers).

SE.23 **URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reported that in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Order 21(4) he had agreed to an item of urgent business, namely to consider grant applications from the Blewbury Players, Blewbury and from St Mary the Virgin Church, Childrey. The Chair reported that he had agreed to accept this as an item of urgent business in view of the requirement for a grant award being needed before the next meeting of the Committee, (Minute SE.27 refers).

SE.24 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32**

None.

SE.25 **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32**

None.

SE.26 **SOUTH EAST AREA COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Councillor Jim Moley had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the grant application in respect of the Wantage Summer Festival and in accordance with Standing Order 34 he withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of that part of the report.

The Committee received and considered report 166/06 of the Strategic Director which set out the new process for delegating the determination of grants; set out the budget position for this Committee in respect of Community Grants in 2006/07 and in 2007/08 and invited the Committee to consider and determine the grant applications received since the last meeting and to agree a principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing.

The report was considered in detail and the following comments made: -

Grants Determined Under Delegated Authority

It was reported that a grant had been made to the Blewbury Woman's Institute in the sum of £200 towards a sound amplification system. Furthermore, a grant had been made to the Wantage Choral Society towards a one-off training choir for the public in the sum of £450, with a condition that Wantage Town Council and other Parish Council's benefiting be requested to make a contribution. It was suggested that a total contribution of £100 might be appropriate.

East Challow Parish Council – Safety Surfacing of Play Area

It was explained that the Parish Council would be funding £1,760 plus the shortfall. It was noted that this third party funding could be as high as £5,000. One Member asked that it be placed on record that funding should be sought from S106 development obligations towards maintenance of play areas

Lyford Manor Farm - Willow Pollarding

One Member commented that the Council had always supported grant awards for tree pollarding in recognition of the importance of willow trees to the environment and it being noted that without the grant assistance in many cases the works required would not take place resulting in the loss of the trees. It was noted in this case the trees could be seen from the public footpath.

One Member considered that the Committee should not be awarding a grant to a private individual. However, other Members supported awarding a grant and considered that 10% of the cost would be reasonable in this case. It was commented that in making these grants the Council was helping to protect the traditional and beautiful aspects of the landscape which were of public benefit.

Wantage Summer Festival

One Member expressed concern regarding the timing of the application in terms of the need to award any grant from the next year's budget. However, the Officers commented that due to the timing of the Festival it would not be possible to consider an application in the next financial year. It was noted that it was not possible to award a grant from this year's budget as the Festival had already had a grant award in this financial year.

RESOLVED

- (a) that it be noted that the process for delegating the determination of community grants applications as set out in Appendix A to report 166/06 has been approved by the Executive and that the grant narratives have been amended to reflect this;*
- (b) that it be noted that the Committee's remaining budget for 2006/07 is £9,827.88;*
- (c) that the grant applications received be determined as follows: -*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Reason for Grant</u>	<u>Agenda and Council Priority</u>	<u>Grant Awarded</u>
Wantage Stage Musical Company	Cost of equipment for stage productions.	Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality priority	£500 (Proposed by Councillor Eddy Goldsmith, seconded by Councillor Derek Verdin and agreed by 10 votes to nil)
East Challow Parish Council	Cost of safety surfacing in a play area.	Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality Priority	£2,000 (Proposed by Councillor Terry Cox, seconded by Councillor Terry Fraser and agreed by 10 votes to nil)
Owner of Lyford Manor Farm	Cost of willow pollarding.	Environmental Agenda, Town and Village Vitality priority	£275 (Proposed by Councillor Terry Cox, seconded by Councillor Richard Farrell and agreed by 7 votes to 3)

- (d) that it be noted that the South East Area Committee's budget for 2007/08 is £24,895;
- (e) that the Executive be invited to approve the carrying forward of any unspent grant budget from 2006/07 into 2007/08;
- (f) that the principle for awarding grants for additional parish cleansing in 2007/08 be agreed on the same basis as in 2006/07, namely that grants will be awarded but that the level of grant shall be limited to 40% of the total cost where the total is calculated on an hourly basis of an hourly rate of £6.00 and that parish cleansing grant applications received be determined as follows to be paid from the 2007/08 budget, (proposed by Councillor Terry Cox, seconded by Councillor Elsa Boyce and agreed by 10 votes to nil: -

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Grant Awarded</u>
Blewbury	£120.00
Charney Bassett	£144.00
Childrey	Nil
Harwell	£1,092.00
West Hendred	£29.00
Letcombe Regis	£374.00
Milton	£499.00
Chilton	£125.00

- (g) that the grant application received be determined as follows to be financed from the 2007/08 budget: -

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Reason for Grant</u>	<u>Agenda and Council Priority</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Wantage Summer Festival 2007	Cost of organising the Festival	Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality priority	£2,500 (£2,000 was proposed by Councillor Terry Cox and seconded by Councillor Eddy

			Goldsmith. By way of an amendment £2,500 was proposed by Councillor Joyce Hutchinson, seconded by Councillor Derek Verdin and agreed by 5 votes to 3 with 1 abstention and 1 of the voting Members not being present during consideration of this item. On being put, the Substantive Motion was agreed by 5 votes to 3 with 1 abstention and 1 of the voting Members not being present during consideration of this item.)
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(h) that the range of projects, services and events supported by the South East Area Committee in 2006/07 as set out in Appendix D to report 166/06 be noted.

SE.27 URGENT BUSINESS - COMMUNITY GRANTS

As referred to elsewhere in these Minutes, the Chair reminded the Committee that he had agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgent business.

The Committee received and considered two grant applications details of which were circulated at the meeting. The applications were discussed and the following comments made: -

Blewbury Players - New Storage Facility

One Member suggested that a contribution from the Parish Council should be sought, although it was noted that the Parish Council had considered this applications and had made a grant award some time ago.

St Mary the Virgin Church - Major lead work and minor carpentry repairs

One Member commented that there was no reference to the community use of the Church. In response, the Chair advised Members that the scheme was aimed at improving the visual appearance for the public's enjoyment and benefit.

Members supported the application.

RESOLVED

that the grant applications received be determined as follows: -

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Reason for Grant</u>	<u>Agenda and Council Priority</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Blewbury Players, Blewbury	Towards the cost of a new storage facility.	Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality priority	£2,000 (£2,735 was proposed by Councillor Terry Fraser and seconded by Councillor Elsa Boyce. By way of an amendment £1,500 was proposed by Councillor Eddy Goldsmith, seconded by Councillor Derek Verdin, but this was lost by 5 votes to 4 with 1 abstention. By way of a further amendment £2,000 was proposed by Councillor Joyce Hutchinson, seconded by Councillor Terry Cox and

			<i>agreed by 7 votes to nil with 3 abstentions. On being put, the Substantive Motion was agreed by 7 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.</i>
<i>St Mary the Virgin Church, Childrey</i>	<i>Towards major lead work and minor carpentry repairs</i>	<i>Environmental Agenda, Town and Village Vitality Priority</i>	<i>£1,500 (Proposed by Councillor Richard Farrell, seconded by Councillor Terry Cox and agreed by 9 votes to nil, with 1 abstention).</i>

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None.

The meeting rose at 7.50 pm