

Minutes

of a meeting of the

South East Area

Committee



held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 October 2009
at the Civic Hall, Wantage

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Joyce Hutchinson (Chair), Richard Farrell (Vice-Chair), Terry Cox, Andrew Crawford, Terry Fraser, Jenny Hannaby, Sue Marchant, Zoe Patrick, Margaret Turner and Reg Waite

Officers: Steve Culliford, Lorna Edwards, Jason Popham and Toby Warren

Number of members of the public: 2

SE.10 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Julia Reynolds and Mike Murray.

SE.11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 9 June 2009 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

SE.12 Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were made in respect of community grant applications as follows: -

Councillor	Type of interest	Application	Reason	Minute Ref
Zoe Patrick	Personal	Wantage and Grove Street Pastor's	In so far as she was a member of Thames Valley Police Authority.	SE.15
Jenny Hannaby	Personal	Wantage Betjemen Festival of Literature and Poetry	In so far as she knew the festival organiser.	SE.15

Jenny Hannaby	Personal	Wantage and Grove District Twinning Association	In so far as she knew some of the members.	SE.15
Joyce Hutchinson	Personal	Wantage and Grove District Twinning Association	In so far as she knew some of the members.	SE.15
Terry Fraser	Personal	Wantage and Grove District Twinning Association and Hendreds Twinning Group	In so far as he knew some of the members.	SE.15

SE.13 Urgent business and Chairman's announcements

The chair raised the matter of the Executive reducing the committee's grants budget and the cancellation of the March 2010 committee meeting. It was also reported that any funds that were not spent in the financial year would be returned to the councils' general funds and should not be carried forward to the forthcoming financial year. Members expressed concern about these changes. It was noted that the council's standing orders allowed the committee to call for a further meeting if needed.

SE.14 Statement, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the south east area committee

The committee received two statements from member of the public under standing order 32 both concerning community grant applications as follows: -

- (1) Mr Steve West spoke on behalf of the Wantage and Grove Street Pastors initiative. He highlighted the work and benefits to the community of the Pastors initiative around the town of Wantage in the evenings. He explained that at other locations across the country the presence of street pastors had been shown to have a significant and positive effect on the atmosphere of the town and cities as well as providing help and reassurance where needed. He commented that the street pastors were all volunteers. He explained that the pastors would initially be able to provide support and care on Friday nights but hoped that the scheme could be extended to Saturdays and to Grove in the future. He commented that the scheme was seeking funding towards the cost of providing administrative support to the volunteers and equipment such as uniforms and mobile telephones. He drew attention to some examples where the pastor's intervention had had a positive effect.
- (2) Mr James Mitchell spoke on behalf of the Wantage Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry. He explained that the organising committee planned to use the festival to encourage greater interest in poetry and literature especially amongst young children and young people and to raise the cultural heritage and history of Wantage. The festival was planned to take place over a ten day period in September 2011 and would include many performers from both leading national celebrities and local

amateur organisations. He highlighted the Hay on Wye festival as an example of the type of event that he would like to aspire to provide. He produced professional sketches from an artist which were to be used as a logo for the festival. The festival would include an extensive educational outreach program that would benefit an area 10 miles around Wantage.

The chair thanked the speakers for their statements which she explained would be taken into account when the committee considered the respective grant applications.

SE.15 Community grants

The committee received and considered report 57/09 of the Head of Community Strategy which set out details of three applications for community grants and two requests for twinning grants. The report also set out the committee's community grants budget position. It was noted that £8,531 remained in the current financial year.

Twinning Partnership Grants

Councillors Terry Fraser, Jenny Hannaby, and Joyce Hutchinson had each declared a personal interest in this part of the report.

It was reported that the council had service level agreements with the two twinning associations in the south east area, namely the Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association and the Hendreds Twinning Group. The committee agreed to fund grants of £2,000 to the Wantage and Grove association and £500 to the Hendreds group to meet the service level agreement requirements.

Wantage Street Pastors

Councillor Zoe Patrick had declared a personal interest in this part of the report.

Councillors commented that there were many different participants involved, all giving up their time for this initiative. The pastors had helped the police to diffuse situations and had undertaken so relatively cheaply. This could reduce the need for police officers to intervene. The council has some responsibility for crime and disorder in the Vale and supporting the pastors was considered a viable project benefiting the community. However, some councillors were concerned that the pastors had to be Christians, albeit that they would help anyone. It was reported that the Pastor's initiative was receiving support in kind from Thames Valley Police, primarily focusing on training. The funding required was for administrative purposes.

It was proposed by Councillor Sue Marchant and seconded by Councillor Jenny Hannaby that a grant of £3,000 should be awarded to the street pastor's initiative. An amendment was proposed by Councillor Richard Farrell and seconded by Councillor Andrew Crawford that a grant of £2,000 should be awarded. This was lost by 6 votes to 4. A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Terry Cox and seconded by Councillor Margaret Turner that a grant of £3,500 should be awarded. This was lost by 7 votes to 3. The committee then voted on the original motion to grant £3,000 and this was carried by 7 votes to nil with 3 abstentions.

East Hendred Village Hall

The committee support the application and approved a grant of £500.

Wantage Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry

Councillor Jenny Hannaby had declared a personal interest in this part of the report.

Many councillors supported this project as the festival would benefit the local area. It was reported that the organiser was well experienced at organising festivals and he was fully committed to a successful outcome. The committee supported that application and agreed an award of £1,500.

RESOLVED

- (a) *that the remaining budget for community grants in 2009/10 for the south east area of the Vale be noted;*
- (b) *that the service level agreements grants to twinning association be agreed as follows:*
- *Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association £2,000*
 - *Hendreds Twinning Group £500*
- (b) *that grant applications be determined as follows: -*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant awarded</u>
<i>Wantage and Grove Street Pastors</i>	<i>Towards running costs</i>	<i>£3,000 (agreed by 7 votes to nil with 3 abstentions)</i>
<i>East Hendred community centre</i>	<i>Towards replacement fencing</i>	<i>£500 (agreed by 10 votes to nil)</i>
<i>Wantage and Betjeman Festival of Literature and Poetry</i>	<i>Towards pre-festival events</i>	<i>£1,500 (agreed by 9 votes to 1)</i>

Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None

The meeting rose at 8pm