
EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the virtual meeting held via Skype on Thursday, 18 March 2021 from 7.00 pm - 8.55 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Lloyd Bowen, Alastair Gould, Carole Jackson, Denise Knights (Chairman), Benjamin Martin, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders (Vice-Chairman), David Simmons, Eddie Thomas, Tim Valentine and Mike Whiting.

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Clifford, Janet Dart, Philippa Davies, Larissa Reed and Nick Vickers.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Cameron Beart, Monique Bonney, Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, Ken Ingleton, Ken Rowles, Roger Truelove and Tony Winckless.

Parish Councillors Julien Speed (Lynsted-with-Kingsdown Parish Council), Alan Stewart (Graveney-with-Goodnestone Parish Council), Jeff Tutt (Dunkirk Parish Council), Chris Williams (Faversham Town Council) and Colin Woods (Doddington Parish Council).

572 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Carole Jackson, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin, Julian Saunders and Eddie Thomas disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as they all sat on Faversham Town Council.

Councillors Carole Jackson and Julian Saunders disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as they were both Trustees of West Faversham Community Centre.

Councillors Carole Jackson and Hannah Perkin disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as they were both Trustees of Citizens Advice Swale.

Councillors Ben J Martin and Tim Valentine disclosed a non-pecuniary interest as they were both Trustees of Faversham Pools.

573 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2020 (Minute Nos. 359 – 369) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

574 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Members noted the progress on actions.

575 PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised.

576 CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Following advice provided by the Monitoring Officer regarding Members' outside interests, Councillors Carole Jackson, Ben J Martin, Hannah Perkin and Tim Valentine left the meeting for this item.

Councillor Julian Saunders stayed for the introduction and then left the meeting for the remainder of the item.

The Chairman explained that the Eastern Area Committee had been given a total of £48,000.00 of funding to allocate in the 2020/21 financial year. At the previous meeting the Committee allocated £837.00 to Doddington Allotment Association which left £47,163.00 to be allocated at this meeting. A public call resulted in 10 applications of funding which totaled £98,702.20.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman had asked officers to carry out a scoring process on all the applications received, based on the criteria set out in the application guidance notes. This was to ensure that the process was impartial and as objective as practicable. Officers produced a paper which set out the scoring for each application and provided notes on previous funding applications awarded by Swale Borough Council. A report was also included from the Council's Air Quality Team about an application received from Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council for Air Quality Monitoring.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman used this report to propose 3 options on how the funding could be allocated. All options were based on the officer scoring, but option 3 also took account of other funding sources. This was circulated to members of the Eastern Area Committee and they were invited to propose further options. A fourth option was proposed by Councillor Ben J Martin. The final 4 options were tabled as an additional paper before the meeting.

A discussion ensued about the different options and Councillor Mike Whiting proposed a fifth option which was to amend Option 4, to become Option 5, by removing the application reference EAC008 from Faversham Town Council, giving Citizens Advice and GEM72 the full funding they requested, and giving EAC009 the Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council application the remaining funds. Further discussion took place on the Air Quality Team report in response to the application. On being put to a vote, it was agreed that Option 5 would not be put forward for consideration by the Committee.

Comments were made that the Committee were not consulted about the process for additional criteria for Eastern Area Committee, in particular the minimum spend of £5,000.00.

On being put to the vote the proposal for Option 3 was agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That the £47,163.00 funding be awarded to projects in the following proportions:

- (a) Faversham Town Council Parishes to Town Project - £12,500.00**
- (b) GEM72 – mobile youth provision - £10,000.00**
- (c) Boughton-under-Blean outdoor gym - £14,663.00**
- (d) Oare Parish Council – regeneration and rewild the village - £5,000.00**
- (e) Abbey Physic Community Garden – repair/refurbish entrance - £5,000.00**

577 FUTURE WORK PLAN

The Chairman asked the Interim Area Committees Coordinator to talk about a work plan that will be put together for 2021/22 to set agendas at future meetings. There would be an option for items listed on the matters arising report to be added to the work plan. Members were invited to email any suggestions for further items to the Chairman and Area Committees Coordinator.

578 LOCAL ISSUES

Councillor Julian Saunders gave a presentation on the Faversham and District Community Lottery. He explained how it worked and the benefits to the community. He encouraged people to buy tickets and nominate good causes to sign-up.

579 NOMINATIONS FOR AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**Resolved:**

(1) That Councillors Julian Saunders and Benjamin A Martin sit on the Area Committee Review Working Group.

580 MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY CABINET

No issues were raised.

581 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY COMMITTEE

The Chairman proposed that the Eastern Area Committee took a proposal to Cabinet for the funding of plaques to be sited at places of interest to promote tourism and for historical information. The Chairman suggested the proposal could boost the economy by drawing interest to certain attractions. Councillor David Simmons seconded the proposal.

On being put to the vote the proposal was agreed.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Eastern Area Committee put forward a proposal to Cabinet for funding for a plaque scheme.**

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel