

Grampound Community Fund Panel
Meeting Thursday 22 July 2014
To consider applications for grants
Minutes

In attendance

Chairman: Geoff Hodgson
Bryan Coode, Bob Egerton, Peter Hardaker, Dean Jenkins, Roger Paynter, Jane Sloan
Observer: Matt Young, Grantscape

Apologies

None

Introductions

Matt Young of Grantscape was introduced to the panel and to the applicants

Minutes of meeting of 29 May

Peter Hardaker asked for an additional comment to be added to the end of the minutes regarding the point that he had made in respect of the decisions made reflecting the need to ensure that the monies allocated would be spent. (See amended minutes published.)

Declarations of interest

Geoff Hodgson: shareholder in the village shop; volunteer at the Heritage Centre.

Bob Egerton: shareholder in the shop; volunteer at the Heritage Centre.

Jane Sloan: shareholder in the shop; chair of village hall committee; secretary of Heritage Centre.

Dean Jenkins: shareholder in the shop; member of the parish council of which the heritage centre is a committee; manages the website of the heritage centre.

Bryan Coode: shareholder in the shop, member of parochial church council.

Roger Paynter: shareholder in the shop; member of the parish council of which the heritage centre is a committee; on heritage centre committee.

Peter Hardaker: shareholder in the shop; volunteer at the Heritage Centre.

Statement by chairman

The chairman explained that each applicant would be allowed 5 minutes to present their proposal and then up to 5 minutes would be allowed for questions from panel members. After the 6 presentations and questions, the panel would debate the merits of each application before making proposals for the allocation of grants and then one or more votes would be taken in order to determine the recommended allocations. Lots had been drawn for the order of presentations and the order was: Bowling Club; Football Club; PFA; village hall; heritage centre; village shop.

Grampound Bowling Club

David Honey presented on behalf of the bowling club, being the treasurer of the club. A primary concern was that the green needs to be kept in best playing condition; need to minimise wear and tear. There are raised walkways around the green to avoid excessive traffic on the green. 3 out of the 4 sides are to grass, uneven, and a trip or slip hazard. Danger of falls especially when wet. Proposal is to take up the grass and lay non-slip paving slabs, 2 slabs wide and with a chipping soakaway channel alongside. Will contribute to safety and preserve quality of the green.

In response to questions from panel members, David made the following points:

- It is the norm at other bowling clubs to have paved walkways.
- The club has £10k in reserves but this is seen as a prudent level to cope with unforeseen expenditure such as the need to purchase a new lawn mower at £5k.
- The slabs would be about 4 feet wide.
- During matchplay, the players change ends walking on the green, but otherwise try to avoid too much wear on the playing surface.

Grampound Football Club

Allan Webb presented on behalf of the football club. Essential part of running the club is facilitating training. In the summer, using the pitch is fine, but in the dark evenings of the winter, it is not possible. Have to travel elsewhere where there are lights, e.g. St Stephen, Poltair on Astroturf, Brannel School, Truro College – these venues are often booked out and the surfaces are not always satisfactory. Cost of hire up to £25 per hour for quarter pitch size. Want to be able to use home pitch, need lighting. Proposal for portable floodlights lit by batteries. Lighting level is not stadium quality, similar to the village hall car park when lit. Fold down lights do not need planning permission. Battery driven, LED cold lights, estimated life 25 years. Would move them around the football field to avoid excessive wear in one place. Would be available for use by other village organisations.

In response to questions from panel members, Allan made the following points:

- The cost of charging the batteries is no more than 50 pence. The batteries would be taken home by team members to recharge.
- The height of the lights is up to 3 metres.
- This project will help the club's sustainability.
- Examples of existing similar facility: St Newlyn East use similar.
- Would help the club to stay in the village.
- Can be used in wet weather provided the pitch surface itself is playable.

Grampound School PFA

Annie Abbott presented on behalf of the school PFA, being the chair of the association. PFA works with staff and children to create more stimulating environment for the children in the playground and around the school. Would involve markings not just for football, netball but for other non-sporting activities. Total development proposed is £26k of which the first phase is £11k. The PFA has been successful already with a lottery bid which will pay for phase 1; would now like to start on the funding of phase 2. It is important for children to have this type of environment: develops habit of regular exercise, stops bullying and anti-social behaviour. Have raised £1,500 already from their own fund raising activities. Other

schools in the area have much better outdoor facilities and Grampound wants to offer similar or better so that it becomes a first choice school for children.

In response to questions from panel members, Annie made the following points:

- The award from the lottery bid was £9,484.
- The details in the bid to this panel were describing phase 1, but phase 2 would involve similar facilities.
- The hall of the village hall building would continue to be for structured indoor activities; the proposal was for outdoor activities.
- The covered area built last year on the playground would be retained and integrated with the new facilities.

Grampound Village Hall

Simon Fann presented on behalf of the village hall committee. The proposal is for improved facilities within the hall committee room. Under the new arrangements, this will be available for use by the community during the day. Requires chairs, tables etc. dedicated to that room – better quality than the school plastic chairs and need to be accessible within the room rather than having to go into the hall to get them. The hall has a proven track record of volunteer activity. Out of the 5 halls built in Cornwall at the same time as Grampound, Grampound is the only one still operating on a self-sustaining basis. There is a demand for a meeting room type of facility in the area, e.g. freelance trainers. Have had to turn down requests in the past because of the lack of the availability here. This project will provide a suitable available facility.

In response to questions from panel members, Simon made the following points:

- The space has been assessed as being sufficient for storing folding chairs and tables within it.
- Would need to get water etc. from the kitchen at the start of any hire, but then the room would be self sufficient.
- Safeguarding issues have been resolved with the school.
- The style of chairs would be similar to those in the heritage centre.
- It was estimated that additional income could be generated from hiring out this room of £1-2k p.a.

Heritage centre

Liz Fisher presented on behalf of the heritage centre. The proposal was for acquiring equipment that would allow the heritage centre to reach out to a wider audience. The heritage centre is itself part of the history of the village. The centre is run by volunteers. Involved with the school and with other history groups, and with ex residents across the world. 18 volunteers plus 73 friends of the centre. Need new laptop and A3 scanner. The education side could be expanded.

In response to questions from panel members, Liz made the following points:

- The heritage centre was part of the parish council, but had not yet asked for more financial support from the parish council.
- The heritage centre was going for museum accreditation. Once achieved, it would be able to apply to more sources of funding.
- The A3 scanner could be used to generate some income by scanning for other groups.
- The heritage centre keeps in touch with the Grampound diaspora around the world.

Grampound Community Shop

Margie Lundie and Helen Bunt presented on behalf of the community shop committee. She gave panel members a breakdown of the shop's funding streams to date and anticipated expenditure. The importance of the village shop was only fully appreciated once the Hollies Store closed. It had been at the heart of the community serving all sections: the elderly, the young, new residents etc. It was realised how important the facility would be to avoid social isolation. In the past 12 months, the shop steering group had worked in a disciplined way to bring the project close to fruition. It secured initial funding from the Plunkett Foundation and the parish council. It set up an Industrial and Provident Society and raised over £20k from shareholders. It had recruited 50 volunteers to work in the shop; it had kept the village updated with progress reports. It has a good site, good parking, the vested interests of the shareholders to make it a success. It will provide a lasting legacy for the village. It has already raised 80% of the total budget (shares £20k, Prince's Charitable Fund £18k) and is now looking to secure the last slice of funding. Need to secure the money for the portakabin and its main services.

In response to questions from panel members, Margie and Helen made the following points:

- Although they had requested £10k, if only £7.5k was awarded, the steering group would find a way to deliver the project. They are duty bound to proceed now.
- Bob Egerton made the point that the lack of questions from the panel was not a sign of lack of interest in the project; on the contrary, it meant that the panel members already felt very informed about it.

Debate of the applications and proposals

Geoff Hodgson explained that the maximum grant to be awarded would be £7,500. More funds would be available next year.

Jane Sloan proposed that the shop should be awarded £7,500. Peter Hardaker seconded the proposal. Bob Egerton also spoke in support of it. The proposal was unanimously supported by the panel.

Dean Jenkins expressed his support in principle for the Football Club and Village Hall proposals – both would help to secure the finances of the organisations.

Peter Hardaker also expressed support for the football club and village hall proposals.

Roger Paynter felt that the village hall required support and the football club's proposal was vital for its future.

Geoff Hodgson expressed support for the PFA proposal as we should be supporting our children's future. He also supported the football club proposal. In respect of the village hall, he said that we clearly could not please everyone.

Bob Egerton expressed support for the Bowling Club, saying that it was a well-run club that had shown good initiative in raising so much money over the years from its own activities.

Peter Hardaker pointed out that the PFA had already secured funding from other sources (lottery) for phase 1 of its project. He felt that the heritage centre would be able to secure money from other sources that might not be available to the other applicants for this money.

Jane Sloan made the point that children were our future and pointed out the PFA proposal would support all children not just those (mainly boys) who play football.

Peter Hardaker proposed that the funds should be allocated: Football Club £3,500, Village Hall £2,000, PFA £1,000.

Jane Sloan said that, unfortunately, she was unable to support the football club proposal because of her concerns as chair of the hall Trustees and the problems they have encountered; she said that she would not take part in any further voting.

Bob Egerton said that it was obvious that the football club had wide support from the panel, but that he would still like to support the bowling club. He proposed that we award £3.5k to the football club and £3.5k to the bowling club. This proposal was not seconded.

Matt Young asked to point out that successful applicants could not reapply the following year and so, if a small award was made to an applicant, the applicant might feel that it would be better to wait a year and then re-apply.

The PFA was asked if an award of £2k would be acceptable or would they prefer to wait. Annie said that she would be minded to accept £2k but not £1k because of this bar on subsequent year applications.

Peter Hardaker then proposed that the funds should be allocated: Football Club £3,500, Village Hall £2,000, PFA £2,000. This was seconded by Bob Egerton. It was supported by a vote of 6 votes for and one abstention.