

Grampound Community Fund Panel
Meeting Tuesday 14 June 2016
Grampound Village Hall at 7 p.m.
To consider applications for grants
Minutes

In attendance

Chairman: Geoff Hodgson
Bryan Coode, Bob Egerton, Peter Hardaker, Dean Jenkins, Jane Sloan
Observer: Andrew Budd, Grantscape

Apologies

Roger Paynter

Introductions

Andrew Budd of Grantscape was introduced to the panel and to the applicants. Geoff Hodgson explained that the running order for applicants would be drawn by lots and that each applicant would have 5 minutes to present their case and then there would be up to 5 minutes of questions from the panel to each applicant. Geoff also explained that this was the fourth meeting of the panel to consider grants and that there would be another 22 years to run with the Fund and so, if an applicant was unsuccessful today, there would be further opportunities to bid in future years. There was £17,924 of funds available this year, but the total of the applicants' bids was £39,759.

Minutes of meeting in 2015

The minutes of the meetings of the panel held on 2 June 2015 were noted.

Declarations of interest in applications to be considered

Bob Egerton: trustee of Grampound Village Hall.

Bryan Coode: Parochial Church Council.

Peter Hardaker: none.

Geoff Hodgson: none

Jane Sloan: Parochial Church Council.

Dean Jenkins: Grampound Parish Council and Parochial Church Council.

All of the above confirmed that they had no pecuniary interest in any of the organisations and that they felt able to consider the applications in an objective manner.

Election of Community Advisory Panel members

Bob Egerton explained the composition of the panel: Cornwall Councillor; representative nominated by the parish council; 5 residents of the parish who were elected in 2013 for three years by electors in the parish. It is proposed to hold elections in autumn 2016 for the 5 elected members. A leaflet will be delivered to all residents of the parish in August-September inviting residents to put themselves forward for the panel. Nominations to be sent to the clerk of the parish

council by 7 October. Voting papers will then be delivered to all persons on the electoral roll in the parish to be returned by 11 November. The parish clerk will act as the returning officer for the elections. The cost to the parish council of the Freepost licence and return postage will be approximately £200.

The panel resolved unanimously to allocate £200 from this year's Fund to cover those costs.

Consideration of applications

Community Energy Plus: Energy advice and engagement project

Donna Cooper of Community Energy Plus explained the rationale of the project. It would help householders have warmer, more energy efficient homes and alleviate cold and damp problems. There would be demonstrations at Slow Cooking events, energy advice sessions, provision of slow cookers, energy monitors and energy saver bulbs. Within the parish it was identified that 22% of households were in fuel poverty. In a pilot project, the results showed that 94% of participating households were able to reduce their energy usage, saving 5-15% of energy bills.

In response to questions from panel members, Donna explained:

- The high staff costs were because of the much better response rates achieved by face-to-face sessions.
- The target of 60 homes to be engaged was ambitious but achievable.
- Households identified as struggling with fuel bills would be targeted rather than specific means testing criteria.
- The energy monitor would not be tied to a specific fuel supplier.
- The programme could be scaled back if the sum available were lower than the bid amount.
- The programme could work in partnership with other funding sources.

Grampound Recreation Ground and Hall: community open space

Helen Bunt, chairman of the hall committee, passed round a diagram showing the proposed layout of the open space. It would be used by school age children, older people and by the community as a whole. The works necessary to turn an agricultural field into a suitable open space would require a professional earthworks contractor with a new entrance ramp, replacement of barbed wire with high tensile wire, laying of pathways, digging out of pond, planting of trees etc. It has the support of the school who would see it as a safe, enclosed space suitable for children's outdoor teaching and activities. The guides had provided a letter of support. The general public could use it for relaxing or gentle exercise.

In response to questions from panel members, Helen explained:

- It would be difficult to deliver the project in stages because the groundworks necessitated a professional firm.
- Local residents could help with tree planting.
- Ongoing maintenance would be low and carried out by volunteers.
- The match funding from Cornwall Council had not yet been confirmed but the committee was confident that it would happen.
- Alternative funders such as Sita had been considered but it seemed that the project would not qualify.

Grampound Carnival Committee: new bunting

Annette Egerton presented on behalf of the carnival committee because the chairman, Charlotte Obie, was unwell. Annette said how popular the carnival was

each year with street collections for charity typically raising over £600. Fewer and fewer villages hold carnivals these days and it was important that Grampound maintained its event. The bunting was a visible sign of the event and the existing bunting was in a poor state.

There were no questions on this item.

Grampound Parish Council: speed visor

Mark Taylor, presented on behalf of the parish council. He explained that a village-wide survey had identified residents' concerns about speeding on Fore Street. Cornwall Council was unable to fund a speed visor in the village or to consider lowering the speed limit. At one location, fewer than 8% of motorists were driving within the speed limit, with 45% exceeding 40 mph. This was the priority site identified by the parish council for some method of speed control. The visor would be attached to a lamppost on the westbound side of the road just before Old Hill. It would benefit, in particular, people leaving the school and the residents of Old Hill and the proposed users of the new open space.

In response to questions from panel members, Mark explained:

- Locals walking on the pavement in this area would benefit from any speed reductions.
- The parish council needs to do something to demonstrate that it is listening to residents' concerns about speeding.
- It shows the commitment of the local community and emphasises to Cornwall Council what we are doing to help ourselves.

Bob Egerton confirmed that Cornwall Council would not be able to match fund this project.

Grampound School PFA: outdoor shelter on open space

Annie Abbott, chair of the PFA, explained the project. This was a true community project. The shelter would be a 4.5 metre hexagonal wooden gazebo structure with seating for up to 30 children, but no sides to it. It would be used by school children, guides, brownies, rainbows, elderly, parents with toddlers etc. Could possibly be used as a bandstand. It would provide an all weather facility with protection from rain and the sun. Fund-raising for a small school was hard work but the PFA had raised £500 towards this project and the school itself would match this with £500, hence the bid for £3,445 towards the total cost of £4,445.

In response to questions from panel members, Annie explained:

- The anticipated finish date of the project was September. The groundworks for the open space would be complete by then, but planting etc. would not take place until later in the autumn.
- The price reflected the high quality of the structure, which was important when considering its use by young children – it was safer than cheaper options.

Grampound Bowling Club: high fence to protect bowling green

Elsbeth Summers presented on behalf of the Bowling Club. They wish to extend the height of the fence on the side of the green next to the part of the recreation ground where informal football sessions take place. There is a safety issue in that sometimes footballs land on the bowling green and players climb over the existing fence to retrieve the balls. With the concrete surround to the green, any fall could result in serious injury. Players coming on to the green in unsuitable footwear, e.g. studs, could also damage the green, which is expensive to maintain. The

alternative to leave the gate unlocked would mitigate the safety issue but would result in more people entering the bowling green with greater detriment to the surface. There have been incidents of break-ins at the pavilion and they do not want to make that any easier.

In response to questions from panel members, Elspeth explained:

- The price was the quotation that they had received from a competent contractor and a cheaper option would not be satisfactory.
- It was unlikely that the football club would be able to make any financial contribution towards it.
- Advice was that no permissions were needed for the project to proceed.
- The problem with balls entering the site has got worse since the improvements made to the recreation ground had resulted in that area being used much more these days.

Grampound Football Club: maintenance equipment for grounds

Allan Webb presented on behalf of the football club. The club wishes to purchase a compact tractor of a similar type to ones used on many other sports fields, together with attachments. The grounds are much improved following the Sport England grant a few years ago. A league cup final was held on the pitch recently and the pitch is a great asset for the community. Because of the heavy clay soil, it needs constant maintenance, such as aerating, sanding and seeding. Much is currently done by hand and use of an ageing 4x4 vehicle towing the gang mower around – this is far from ideal. A small compact tractor would enable the maintenance to be carried out more frequently and efficiently resulting in a long-term improvement to the quality of the pitch.

In response to questions from panel members, Allan explained:

- The proposed tractor was at the bottom of the price range for such machines.
- Other users are encouraged to use the football pitch.
- The club has a safe place in which to keep the proposed tractor.

Grampound Parochial Church Council: extension to burial ground

Colin Micklewright presented on behalf of the parochial church council. The total project cost is £7,370 of which the church would contribute £1,500. There would need to be 2 entrance gates for pedestrians and access from the lane and hard standing for vehicles such as hearses. The site has planning permission for use as a graveyard and the transfer of land from Trewithen estate to the church is in the process of taking place. Colin emphasised the place of the church in the community and how services take place each week either in St Nuns or St Crida.

In response to questions from panel members, Colin explained:

- Although income was derived from burials, much of this fee went to the Diocese. The Diocese is not contributing to the project.
- It costs the church approx. £22k p.a. for running costs and this is raised each year from the users and the community.
- There are 4-5 burials each year plus deposits of ashes from cremations.
- There is only a small number of available plots in the existing cemetery.

Peter Hardaker pointed out that £1,000 had been allocated by the parish council some years ago towards this potential project.

Debate by panel members on the applications and resolutions

Jane Sloan proposed that the panel should award the amount applied for by the Carnival Committee because this was a relatively minor sum and she was sure that it was supported by all.

The panel resolved unanimously to allocate £679 to the Carnival Committee's bid.

The panel members then each expressed their views on which applications they would personally support. Each panel member put forward 3 or 4 of the applications.

After consideration of how many members had supported the particular projects, Geoff noted that no member had supported the Bowling Club bid.

The panel resolved unanimously not to support the Bowling Club bid this year.

It was noted that all members had supported the Hall bid for its Open Space project.

The panel resolved unanimously to support the bid of £6,966 by Grampond Recreation Ground and Hall for the open space.

There was then discussion of the speed visor proposal by the parish council. Dean Jenkins and Mark Taylor expressed the view that the parish council itself could probably contribute £1,000 towards the project.

The Parochial Church Council bid was discussed and Bryan Coode and Colin Micklewright agreed that the project could probably be staged so that a partial award of approx. half the bid amount would be acceptable.

With regard to the PFA bid for the community shelter, Annie felt that it would be impossible to proceed without the full amount.

The panel then noted that the Community Energy Plus bid had been supported by just one panel member, the Football Club bid by two members. The other 3 bids had either 3 or 4 panel members supporting them.

The panel resolved to support the following bids for the amounts as follows:

- *Grampond PFA, community shelter, £3,445*
- *Grampond Parish Council, speed visor, £3,400*
- *Parochial Church Council, extension of graveyard, £3,234*

As a result of the resolutions, the total amount available this year of £17,924 was allocated.

Geoff Hodgson thanked all of the applicants for their bids and presentations and advised the unsuccessful applicants that they could try again in future years.

Andrew Budd said that he hoped that the bids could be ratified by Grantscape board by about the end of June. Meanwhile, successful applicants could tell people that their bids had been recommended for approval by the community advisory panel but that ratification from Grantscape should be awaited before proceeding with the projects.

Any other business

There was no other business.