
Stourbridge Area Committee – 25th June 2012

Report of the Treasurer

Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the request to change the purpose of a grant from Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

Background

2. Ernest Stevens made various donations of property which were to be used for specified purposes. These have been identified as individual Trusts and detailed below:
 - i. Mary Stevens Maternity Home and Public Park Charity.
 - ii. Mary Stevens Park, Recreation Ground and Park, Norton.
 - iii. Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.
 - iv. Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation, Wollescote
3. Only the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation has investments, which generate income for disbursement.
4. Members will be aware that the four Ernest Stevens Trusts are now combined under the control of this Committee as Trustees.
5. In the application of the income of the Foundation, the Trustees have discretion to give preference to the area of the former Urban District of Lye and Wollescote and to meeting the needs of the people resident therein.
6. There is no set maximum amount stipulated in the Trust deed for a grant.
7. However, in the past, the Trustees have tended to apply the criteria that the grant should be a maximum of £5000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project and at the Area Committee in November 2008 it was agreed that income from the trust would be ring fenced to contribute to the future repair of the gates and that grants would only be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

Applications

Lye Cricket Club

8. The applicant submitted a request for a grant from the trust for a mobile training cage for £450 which was approved at the meeting on 17th October 2011.
9. The applicant has now received funding from the Lord's Taverners for this item and now request the Committee consider that the grant can now be used for a slipcatch

cricket cradle or other cricket equipment to the same value.

Finance

10. The grant has already been treated in the accounts as awarded in 2011/12 and remains unpaid. Therefore if the request is approved there will be no change to the Trust's financial position.

Law

11. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.
12. Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area.
13. The conditions under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.
14. The law relating to Trusts, which are charitable, is contained in various acts, the main ones being the Charities Act, 1960, the Charities Act 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

Equality Impact

15. The Trusts have been set up to benefit the public of the Borough of certain geographical areas of the Borough as outlined in the Deeds of Gift.

Recommendation

16. It is recommended that the Area Committee consider request to change the use of the grant previously awarded as detailed in the report.



Treasurer

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List of Background Papers

Letters, emails and quote from Lye Cricket Club