
Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – 28th April, 2014

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the request for a grant on behalf of the Friends of Swan Pool Park from Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

Background

2. At the Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee meeting on 3rd February, 2014, an application requesting £5000 to provide a Youth shelter where young people could meet away from residential properties to reduce noise nuisance and up to six benches in various locations was submitted on behalf of the Friends of Swan Pool Park for consideration.
3. At that meeting, Members supported the application in principle, but requested that consideration of a grant be deferred until the outcome of the other funding streams, referred to in the application, had been received and for discussions with the Friends Group to be entered into regarding better value for the project that could be obtained from the furniture being purchased from Dudley MBC.
4. On the 30th January, 2014 the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum recommended that the sum of £5000 be approved towards the project. The total project cost referred to in the application to the Community Forum was £12,700.
5. An email from the Treasurer of the Friends of Swan Pool Park was received on 22nd April, 2014 informing the Committee that there had been a delay in applying to the Margaret Westwood Trust requesting £1000 towards the project and therefore would not now be considered until the trustees next meeting in July 2014.
6. The Treasurer of the Friends of Swan Pool Park has therefore asked of the possibility that the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust application be reconsidered, prior to knowing the outcome of the Margaret Westwood Trust application, so that improvement works within the Park can begin.
7. Discussions are being held between the Treasurer of the Friends of Swan Pool Park and the Council in relation to better value for the project that could be obtained from the furniture being purchased from Dudley MBC.

Finance

8. During the 2013/14 financial year no grants were awarded.

9. The income of the trust in 2013/14 was approximately £17,000.

Law

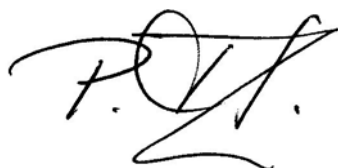
10. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.
11. Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area.
12. 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.
13. 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

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

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the Committee consider the request for a grant as detailed in the report.



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List of Background Papers

Application forms/email
Accounts
Constitution
Bank Statements
Quotes