

ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 22nd April, 2013 at 5.30pm
Committee Room 4, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillors Cowell, Hanif, Partridge, Mrs Rogers and Sykes

OBSERVER:-

Councillor Elcock

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Democratic Services Manager
and Principal Tax Accountant (Directorate of Corporate Resources)

1 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance advised the Committee of the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.2. This Rule provided that a substitute member could only be appointed if he/she was otherwise eligible to serve on the Committee.

The Council had established the Committee to include one representative from each of the six wards concerned. A view was taken that a substitute member may only be appointed in place of another Councillor who represented the ward concerned. In these circumstances, Councillor Elcock remained as an observer for the duration of the meeting.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Cowell be elected as Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Hanif be elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor C Wilson.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Non-pecuniary interests as Chair of the Friends Group for Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common and in relation to her involvement with the Project Implementation Team - Heritage Lottery Bid for Mary Stevens Park.

Councillors Hanif and Partridge – Non-pecuniary interests as attendees at meetings of the Friends of Parks Groups.

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on the terms of reference approved by the Council on 25th February, 2013 and associated issues.

A Member requested that copies of the deeds of gift and associated Trust documentation be provided to all Members of the Committee. The Chair also asked for clarification of the boundaries of the former Lye and Wollescote Urban District Council. The Assistant Director (Law and Governance) undertook to pursue this in consultation with colleagues in his Division.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST – GRANT APPLICATION

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request from Stourbridge and District Scout Council for a grant from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

The Committee was minded to defer the application to enable further information to be obtained and for the full application form to be circulated to all Members. It was also noted that the Scout Council had recently applied for funding from the Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town Community Forum.

Members also referred to the possibility of publicising the availability of funding from the Trust more widely within the area of benefit.

Following a discussion concerning previous funding decisions, it was suggested that a report on the financial strategy be submitted to the next meeting. Reference was also made to income derived from activities associated with the use of the Trust's assets, which was used to offset the maintenance of land and property from the Council's mainstream resources. The Committee requested clarification at a future meeting concerning the role of this Committee in dealing with the income of the Trust and the operational role of the Directorate of the Urban Environment in maintaining land and buildings from mainstream Council resources.

In response to additional questions, the Committee was advised that the Ernest Stevens Trust Management Committee had been established as a Committee of the Council. As such, its meetings were subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the access to information procedure rules contained in the Council's Constitution. The Committee had no obligation to include a 'Public Forum' on the agenda. Members of the public were, however, entitled to attend for the public proceedings and the right of any person to address the Committee was at the discretion of the Chair.

Under the relevant legislation applicable to Council Committee meetings, it was not permissible to include an agenda item for 'Any Other Business'. However, it would be appropriate to include an item for questions to be asked under Council Procedure Rule 11.8 at future meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the request for grant funding submitted by Stourbridge and District Scout Council be deferred for further information.
- (2) That the Committee receive an update at the next meeting on the various issues referred to above.

The meeting ended at 6.23 p.m.

CHAIR