

ERNEST STEVENS TRUSTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 31st July, 2013 at 6.00pm
Committee Room 1, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Cowell (Chair);
Councillor Hanif (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Kettle, Partridge, Mrs Rogers and Sykes

OFFICERS

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

2 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Kettle was serving in place of Councillor C
Wilson for this meeting of the Committee only.

3 **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. Also in relation to
her involvement with the Project Implementation Team - Heritage Lottery
Bid for Mary Stevens Park and attendance at stakeholder meetings.

Councillor Mrs Rogers – Agenda Item No. 8 (Stevens Park and Recreation
Ground Foundation Trust – Grant Application) - Non-pecuniary interest
as she had attended the Annual General Meeting at the Alderman Tye
Scout and Guide Headquarters, South Road, Stourbridge. Other
members of the Committee indicated that they had also received an
invitation to this meeting.

Councillor Hanif - Non-pecuniary interest as an attendee at stakeholder meetings and Friends of Parks Groups.

Councillor Partridge – Non-pecuniary interest as an attendee at Friends of Parks Groups meetings.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April, 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

5 FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR THE STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST

The Committee considered a report of the Lead Officer on the financial strategy for the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust. The Committee gave consideration to the reserves policy, the criteria for awarding grants and the overall finances of the Trust, including the maintenance costs borne by the Council's revenue budgets and the income used to offset the maintenance costs.

Arising from paragraph 20 of the report, the Committee noted confirmation of the receipt of Heritage Lottery Funding towards the overall project costs at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge. A sum of £66,000 was held in the Stevens Trust accounts as a contribution to the project and the Committee considered that this funding should be retained by the Trust until such time as the project works were undertaken.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the existing reserves policy be continued on the basis of maintaining the value of the original endowment by adjusting it for inflation, property and investment valuations and that this policy be reviewed at the first meeting of the Committee in each municipal year.
- (2) That in relation to the award of grants from the Trust:
 - (a) Subject to the Committee retaining flexibility to consider each and every application on its own individual merit and to award grants at their discretion in special or exceptional circumstances, in accordance with the overall terms of the Trust Deed, the general criteria be set as follows:

- (i) Applications will normally be considered for capital purposes up to a maximum grant of £5,000 or 50% of the project costs;
 - (ii) Consideration will be given to the applicants' ability to self-fund the expenditure or to obtain funding from alternative sources;
 - (iii) Applicants will be able to apply for further funding from the Trust upon the expiry of two years from the date of the Committee meeting at which the previous grant award was approved.
 - (b) That the administrative arrangements for making grant payments continue on the existing basis of funds being released for the actual expenditure incurred, following the submission of invoices, and that monies will only be allocated for the purposes granted by the Committee.
 - (c) That, subject to any implications arising from the imminent revaluation of the Trust's land and buildings, officers give consideration to publicising the availability of grant funding for local people, groups or organisations in the area of benefit and that information concerning the implications of the revaluation be circulated to Members of the Committee in due course.
- (3) That the arrangements concerning the finances of the Trust as set out in paragraphs 23 to 25 of the report, including the maintenance costs being borne by the Council's revenue budgets and the income used by the Council to offset those maintenance costs, be continued on the existing basis.
- (4) That the sum of £66,000 previously allocated as a contribution to the project at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge be held in the Stevens Trust accounts until such time as the project is initiated and that the monies only be released as and when the necessary works are undertaken.
- (5) That officers investigate the feasibility of meetings of the Committee being rotated between various properties administered under the auspices of the Ernest Stevens Trusts and that future meetings be held on a quarterly basis.

6 ERNEST STEVENS TRUST – MARY STEVENS HOSPICE – CONSENT FOR BUILDING WORKS

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request to undertake building works for a two-storey annexe extension on the north-east facing elevations of the Mary Stevens Hospice and associated internal refurbishment works.

A Member queried the requirement to notify the Charity Commission of the Planning Application. The Lead Officer undertook to investigate this issue.

RESOLVED

That, subject to any necessary consents from the Charity Commission, the Committee endorse the extension and internal refurbishment of the Mary Stevens Hospice on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Corporate Resources.

7 ERNEST STEVENS TRUST – WOLLESCOTE HALL – GRANT OF A LEASE/LICENCE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request for a lease/licence of a room to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) Good Neighbours at Wollescote Hall, Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

RESOLVED

That the Committee consent to the grant a lease/licence of a room to WRVS Good Neighbours at Wollescote Hall, Stevens Park, Stourbridge on terms and conditions to be negotiated and agreed by the Director of Corporate Resources.

8 STEVENS PARK AND RECREATION GROUND FOUNDATION TRUST – GRANT APPLICATION

Further to Minute No. 7 of the meeting held on 22nd April, 2013, the Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources on a request from the Stourbridge and District Scout Council for a grant from the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust.

The Committee discussed the application in detail taking account of the criteria and other issues referred to in Minute No. 5 above.

RESOLVED

- (1) That based on the information available to the Committee, the Director of Corporate Resources write to the Stourbridge and District Scout Council advising that their application has not been successful on this occasion due to concerns regarding the ability of the organisation to self-fund the expenditure.
- (2) That the Director of Corporate Resources advise the applicant of the reasons for the decision and the possibility of submitting a fresh application should the organisation so wish in the future.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIR