

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL**

**held in the Community Hub Meeting Room, Victoria Park
on Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 6pm**

Councillors

C Hooper (Chair)
N Houghton
C Fletcher
M Jones
R McLaverty-Head

Absent

I Dawson (apologies)
E Green (apologies)
K Newbigging (apologies)
L Lowton

Also in attendance

Linda Blake - Town Clerk
Louise Wall – Minute Clerk
M Birks – Mayor of Malvern
Representatives from organisations
seeking a Town Council grant

In the absence of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee Cllr Iain Dawson, the meeting was chaired by Vice-chair Cllr Clive Hooper.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Iain Dawson, Emma Green and Karen Newbigging were **NOTED**.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was **AGREED** that members of the public who had attended the meeting to speak in support of their grant application would be allocated up to five minutes each in public participation.

Small grants

Monksfield Allotment Association £500 – three members of the association were in attendance. Dr Marion Helme explained that the £500 grant they had applied for would be used to purchase a replacement awning cover for the communal seating area plus two raised beds and grass matting for a new well-being garden. This would provide accessible gardening for anyone that used a wheelchair or was unable to manage a full or half-plot. It was hoped that with the association membership of around 75 people, and various social events planned for 2025, over two hundred people would benefit from this grant if awarded.

Malvern Community Art Therapy £500 – Genevieve Collier had recently set up a therapeutic art group in Malvern, and requested a £500 grant towards a sink unit with splash back, various racks and fittings for painting equipment and a card reader for taking payments. She explained that there was a need for such an art group to

provide therapy for people with mental health problems, young adults suffering from anxiety and social isolation, and women recovering from domestic abuse and trauma amongst others. Eight members of the community from an existing group will attend initially, with an expectation of around thirty people attending each week as the group develops.

Large grants

Malvern Museum of Local History £2,500 – Maggie Radway explained that a grant of £2,500 would be used towards the total cost of £20,000 for conservation work and repairs to the medieval stonework, roof and windows. Works would improve the look of the ground floor area for visitors, which in turn would hopefully encourage repeat visits and new visitors. Around 5,000 people visit the museum each year, which in 2022-23 made an economic impact on the local economy of over £150,000.

Malvern Men's Shed £1,250 – Tony Palmer explained that Malvern Men's Shed is part of a nationwide network of groups where people can gather, chat and improve their mental health by sharing practical skills and knowledge. The Town Council had previously awarded an amount to purchase various woodworking equipment, and this application was for a high-level air filter dust extractor, a planer thicknesser, metal detector and sander, a sharpening system and some general tools. Since opening in 2020, membership has grown steadily to the current 68 people. The group is open to everyone and one aim is to increase the number of sessions available.

The Theatre of Small Convenience £2,500 – Dr Jan Birtle and Loz Samuels attended the meeting and spoke about how they had recently secured ownership of the theatre from Malvern Hills District Council. Although it was in poor condition, they hoped to carry out some rapid restoration works to prevent any further deterioration and progress further works to enable the building to be opened to the public. The theatre is an important part of Malvern's heritage and features in the Guinness Book of World Records. The total cost of the project was estimated to be £6,450 and the group has applied for other funding to enable the project to be completed by early next year.

The Chase School £2,500 – Ed Dixon, D&T Faculty Lead at The Chase School attended the meeting to explain an extracurricular project he hoped to deliver for Key Stage 3 students, although it could expand to include other students in the future. The Greenpower formula 24 project would see students designing, building and racing a single seat electric-powered racing car, with the intention of competing in a national endurance racing series at historic racing circuits around the country. Greenpower Education Trust is a charity that aims to inspire more young people to become engineers by making the subject interesting and relevant, and encouraging them to solve real time problems. Around 15 students would take part initially with numbers expected to grow each year. The total cost of the project is £3,275 and The Chase School would fund the difference if the grant was awarded.

The Curious Cabinet £3,500 – Tania Robertson explained that in the past ten years 800 libraries have closed and part of the reason people did not engage with their local library was that they did not know what to do there. Visual Art helps to break down barriers for people and so she started the exhibition programme to bring the library into a modern visual art world. The Curious Cabinet project was a series of twelve exhibitions which started in May, located in the foyer of Malvern Library. The grant applied for would cover costs for four exhibitions and five workshops including fees of a number of professional London-based artists invited to work for the project, materials, room hire and repair to the cabinet itself.

24. SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 1ST ROUND 2024/25

Report PR01/24 was received and accepted.

Malvern Community Art Therapy

It was **AGREED** to award a grant of £500 to Malvern Community Art Therapy.

Monksfield Allotment Association

Councillors **AGREED** that the amount of £500 applied for by the allotment association should be increased to £750.

It was **AGREED** to award a grant of £750 to Monksfield Allotment Association.

25. LARGE GRANTS SCHEME, 1ST ROUND 2024/25

Report PR02/24 was received and accepted.

Malvern Museum

It was **AGREED** to defer a decision on Malvern Museum's grant application until they were able to provide more detailed information on the amount of reserves and how much, if any, was earmarked for building repairs.

Malvern Men's Shed

It was **AGREED** to award a grant of £1,250 to Malvern Men's Shed.

The Theatre of Small Convenience

It was **AGREED** to award a grant of £2,500 to The Theatre of Small Convenience.

The Chase School

Councillors were keen to ensure that all students, including those on lower incomes, were able to participate in the project and that extra effort should be made to reach disadvantaged children.

Under Standing Order 3(x) Committee agreed to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

Councillors also felt that the amount requested was high and that the school and pupils should aim to gain extra funding from local businesses.

It was **AGREED** to award a grant of £1,500 to The Chase School on condition that the school invites all students personally in receipt of the pupil premium grant to attend a lunchtime meeting to explain that the project is available to them and give encouragement that they should participate.

The Curious Cabinet

Cllr Jones declared an interest in this item, having known Andrew Judd who started the project. This did not affect her ability to participate and vote.

Councillors were confused by the application, feeling there was a lack of clarity, objectives were not clearly identified and there was not a comprehensive rationale underpinning it.

It was **AGREED** to reject the application for a grant of £3,500.

Councillors asked that the applicant be invited to apply to the grants scheme in the future and advised that Town Council officers would provide assistance with the application if required.

26. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 6pm.

The meeting finished at 8.07 pm

.....(Chairman)

DRAFT