

## **GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Thursday 15 September 2011

### **Present:-**

Councillor John Winterbottom (Chair)  
Councillors M A Baldwin, Bull, Newcombe and Spackman

### **Also Present**

Director Community and Environment, Senior Valuer (TJ) Valuer (TW) and Member Services Officer (SJS)

7

### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 December 2010 and 24 February 2011 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

8

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A Member declared the following personal interest:-

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>MINUTE</b>
Councillor Winterbottom	10 (knows the Treasurer of Exe Water Sports Association)

9

### **GRANTS BUDGET POSITION**

The Director of Community and Environment outlined the current budget position with regards to the grants budget and informed Members the amount currently left unallocated from 2011/12 was £2,504 plus £3,000 that was approved to be carried forward to 2011/12.

10

### **RENT GRANTS**

Councillor Winterbottom declared a personal interest as he knows the Treasurer of Exe Water Sports Association.

The Director Community and Environment outlined to Members the rent grant applications for Exe Water Sports Association and Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd.

Members raised concerns regarding the pressure that the increase in the rent for the pontoon could put on the financial position of Exe Water Sports Association.

The Senior Valuer updated Members on a proposed way forward with regards to the pontoon licence fee for Exe Water Sports Association. The current licence fee was £750 p.a. From completion of the legal documentation, the licence fee would increase to £1,750 p.a. for the first year, increasing to £2,750 p.a. in the second year and then rising to £3,951.60 p.a. from the third year onwards. He advised that the licence fee year was not the same as a financial year.

Members recognised the excellent work that Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd were undertaking and invited the organisation to re-submit an application for consideration alongside other applications for 2012/13 funding, with the advice that

a commitment could not be made as to whether the application would be successful.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Executive that the decisions as set out below be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated;

<b>GRANT</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Exe Water Sports Association	Approve	£700 towards the rent increase for 62 Haven Road which can be covered by the recommendation at the February 2011 Grant Committee with regards to rental increases for existing properties during the year
	Refuse	£3,052 for the rent for the frontage of the pontoon; from completion of the legal documentation the licence fee would increase to £1,750 p.a. for the first year, increasing to £2,750 p.a. in the second year and then rising to £3,951.60 p.a. from the third year onwards
Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd	Refuse	Most of the funding the organisation needs for 2011/12 is in place. The organisation be invited to re-submit an application for consideration alongside other applications for 2012/13 funding

(Report circulated)

11

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for part of the following item on the

grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act’.

12

### **MATTHEWS HALL**

The Director Community and Environment presented the report to approve rent support to Topsham Community Association for Matthews Hall for a minimum period of five years.

The Senior Valuer advised Members that there had been discussions with the Community Association for them to take over all responsibility for the areas of open space to the side and front of the hall. This would save the Council the cost of managing and maintaining the area and it would remain open for public use unless the Association had an event.

The majority of Members felt that whilst it was extremely unlikely that the rent grant would not be approved the Council was not in a financial position to give the Topsham Community Association an assurance that the rent grant would be approved for the next five years. They also had concerns that any assurance could create a precedent for other community associations in receipt of a rent grant.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Executive that it is extremely unlikely that the rent grant would not be paid but, in light of the Comprehensive Spending Review, Grants Committee were unwilling to bind its successors into a five year agreement.

(Report circulated)

(The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.17 pm)

Chair