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MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP BOARD AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, 1 December 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek

23 November 2021

PART 1

1. Apologies.
2. To Approve the Minutes from the Previous Meeting. **(Pages 3 - 6)**
3. Disclosure of Interests:
 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:
 - Other Interests
4. Summary of Projects **(Pages 7 - 10)**
5. Financial Summary and Proposed Grant Awards **(Pages 11 - 14)**
6. Any Other Business.

ANDREW STOKES CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Membership of Moorlands Partnership Board

Councillor H Sheldon MBE (Chairman)	Councillor A Hart (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M Bowen	Councillor J Davies
Councillor B Emery	Councillor E Fallows
Councillor M Gledhill	Councillor A Jackson
Councillor I Lawson	Councillor R Locker
Councillor L A Malyon	Councillor T Riley
Councillor D Shaw	Councillor P Turner
Councillor S Walley	Councillor S Wales

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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Minutes

TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2021

PRESENT: Councillor H Sheldon MBE (Chairman)
 Councillors B Emery, E Fallows, M Gledhill, L A Malyon and N Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: J Brooks Regeneration Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Bowen, A Hart, T Riley and S Walley

68 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

Cheadle Town Councillor Nigel Wood attended as substitute for Councillor Sue Walley.

69 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Minute No. 64 – Summary of Projects and Update on Progress – showed 42 Crompton Road, Leek. The address is actually 42 Compton, Leek.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 be **APPROVED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

70 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Items 5 & 6	Cllr. Sheldon	“Other” – Member of Biddulph Town Council & Chair of Biddulph in Bloom – recipients of grants
Agenda Items 5 & 6	Cllr. Emery	“Other” – Member of Leek Town Council – recipient of grants

71 **SUMMARY OF PROJECTS**

The Board received an update on progress of the grants already approved in previous years:-

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2015/16 OFFERS:

Gazebo, Whitehough, Ipstones.

Still waiting for doors to be installed and then the scheme would be complete.

Officers had agreed with the applicant to extend remaining grant to 31 Dec 2021. If works were not complete by then the grant would be withdrawn.

2016/17 OFFERS:

The Trough, Biddulph.

Awaiting commencement. No update from Biddulph Town Council.

2017/2018 OFFERS:

Funerary Monuments.

Ongoing project - The most recently completed monuments were the Thomas Lovatt and Elizabeth Smith memorials at Alton. The following list was left to complete:

- Genders Memorial – Biddulph;
- Railed enclosure – Horton;
- Empson memorial – Kingsley.

2018/2019 OFFERS:

Leekbrook Interpretation Panels.

The LeekBrook boards were complete, on site and the grant paid.

2019/2020 OFFERS:

Halls Road Community Notice Board, Biddulph.

Notice boards were complete and in situ. Officers had requested photographs before payment of grant could be made. Despite several emails to chase with Biddulph Town Council, no photographs had been submitted. Grant remained unpaid.

42 Compton, Leek.

No further update to report.

55 Chorley Street.

Works complete and grant paid.

Kingsley and Froghall Station Platform.

Works complete and grant paid.

Leekbrook Rail Track.

No further update to report.

2020/2021 OFFERS:

Gillow Heath Station.

No update from Biddulph Town Council to report.

6 Russell Street, Leek

Works complete and request for additional funding (see details on separate report).

ANTICIPATED APPLICATIONS:

Cheadle Cards.

Potential grant aid for new shopfront.

Biddulph Florists.

Potential grant aid for like for like replacement shopfront. Awaiting quotes.

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For the benefit of new Board members, the qualifying criteria for receipt of grants was clarified.

RESOLVED – That the report be **NOTED**.

72 FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND PROPOSED GRANT AWARDS

The report requested Member approval to allocate grant funding in 2021/22. The budget for the year following the rolling forward of unspent 2020/21 budget was £60,350. The current position was shown:-

Scheme	Budget £60,350 2021/22
Total potential grant offers for this MPB meeting	
6 Russell Street, Leek	£350
St Edwards summer houses	£8,000
Remaining funds	£52,000

Given the larger amount available and the limitations of time available to allocate it (8 months) a number of options had been identified for consideration:-

1. Increase the maximum granny award from £4,000 to £8,000 to encourage the take-up of grants;
2. Increase the grant percentage from 50% to 75% of the total cost;
3. Offer 'one-off' enhanced grant offers over and above the proposed new maximum to key strategic conservation projects;
4. Use the Town Centre Manager for the Moorlands – Lisa Hoyland – to actively promote the scheme;
5. Approach the 3 main Town Councils to directly invite any potential projects. Money could then be allocated to each Town Council en-bloc.

Members spoke in favour of the above options but were keen to also include Parish Councils in No. 5 above. Examples of sites where grants would be potentially of assistance were The Royal Oak, Cheadle and the former W H Smiths shop, Cheadle.

RESOLVED – That the above 5 options be **APPROVED** for adoption from this point, with the addition to option 5 for approach to be made to all Parish Councils.

PROPOSED GRANT AWARDS

6 Russell Street, Leek – Works had been completed in the restoration of 4 sash windows but additional works had become evident during the process resulting in an anticipated £700 extra cost.

RESOLVED – That an additional 50% grant of £350 be **APPROVED** towards the additional cost.

St Edwards Estate Summer Houses, Cheddleton – This was the second application considered by the Board. The previous application resulted in a grant of £4,000 in 2017, later withdrawn following concerns over the lack of public access and enjoyment of the summer houses. A recent change of directors of the management

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company had resulted in a renewed effort to work with the Parish Council, with discussions taking place regarding the use of the summer houses for an annual fete.

Whilst members were in favour of awarding the grant, it was felt necessary to consult with Cheddleton Parish Council for their view.

RESOLVED – That, subject to Cheddleton Parish Council agreement, an enhanced grant of £8,000 be **APPROVED** towards the repair of the 6 summer houses on the St Edwards Estate. The work would be subject to the standard grant scheme conditions and the following technical conditions:-

- That the scope of works and a detailed repair specification be agreed in writing with the Conservation Officer and Grants Officer prior to the commencement of the works or manufacture of any components;
- Colour schemes to be agreed with the Conservation Officer and Grants Officer.

73 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

Councillor Fallows noted that there had been no further action regarding Cheadle Cards since the previous meeting. The Grants Officer confirmed that The regeneration officer had already indicated an £8,000 grant could be justified towards Cheadle cards given that the property occupied a corner plot and had 2 shop frontages. Despite this the owner was still reluctant to consider a grant.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

_____ Chairman _____ Date

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Moorlands Partnership Board

1 December 2021

TITLE:	Summary of Projects
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor S Ralphs - Council Leader SMDC
CONTACT OFFICER:	Joanne Brooks - Regeneration Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update and review progress on the grants already approved (in previous years) under the Moorlands Partnership Board.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the update report is noted

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report deals with progress to date on those projects, awaiting commencement, on site or, completed since the last meeting of the Moorlands Partnership Board.
- 3.2 This report is for information only but does offer Members an opportunity to comment on progress. The report will be presented with an accompanying power point presentation which displays images of each project.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report concerns publicly funding the restoration and repair of historic properties or places that are either listed or an identified heritage asset. This, in turn, is related to the Council's corporate aim 3:
- To help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are no alternative options as this an update report on progress only.

6. Project updates and progress

2015/16 OFFERS:

Gazebo, Whitehough, Ipstones
Works complete and grant paid.

2016/17 OFFERS:

The Trough, Biddulph
Awaiting commencement. No update from Biddulph Town Council.

Gillow Heath Station.
No update from Biddulph Town Council to report

Halls Road Community Notice Board, Biddulph
Noticeboards are complete awaiting invoices

2017/2018 OFFERS:

Funerary Monuments
Ongoing project. Repairs to all the funerary monuments are now complete with the exception of the Genders memorial at the Church of St Lawrence, Biddulph.

2019/2020 OFFERS:

42 Compton, Leek
No further update to report.

Leekbrook Rail Track
The construction is due to start towards the end of January 2022 with a completion in September 2022.

2020/2021 OFFERS:

St Edwards Summerhouses
Specification of works being prepared prior to making formal grant award.

ANTICIPATED APPLICATIONS:

Biddulph Florists
Potential grant aid for like for like replacement shopfront. Awaiting quotes. Applicant chased.

Former Garage, Ipstones
Repair and restoration of building for community use.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Community Safety – No implications at this stage.
- 7.2 Workforce – The Moorlands Partnership Scheme is administered by an officer within the Regeneration Team with assistance when required from the council’s Conservation Officer.
- 7.3 Equality and Diversity/ Equality Impact Assessment - No implications at this stage.
- 7.4 Financial considerations - There are allocations within the capital programme for the Moorlands Partnership funding scheme. The projects outlined in this report have been met from approved budgets from previous years. The budget for this year 2021-2022 is £60,350.
- 7.5 Legal - Local authorities are empowered to give grants towards improvements in conservation areas under Section 57 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 7.6 Climate Change – No Implications at this stage.
- 7.7 Consultation – Grant offers are made in consultation with and approved by the Moorlands Partnership Board. Where required, projects that require planning permission and listed building consent are subject to the normally statutory consultations.

Neil Rodgers - Executive Director (Place)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Location

Contact details

Joanne Brooks Regeneration
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uk

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STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Moorlands Partnership Board

1 December 2021

TITLE:	Financial Summary and Proposed Grant Awards
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor S Ralphs - Council Leader SMDC
CONTACT OFFICER:	Joanne Brooks - Regeneration Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Member's approval to allocate grant funding from the Moorlands Partnership Board (MPB) in 2021/22. The budget for this year is £60,350.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Note the financial summary in 7.5 and action taken to increase uptake of grants.
- 2.2 Members of the Board are recommended to approve a 75% grant of £1,170 f towards eligible works at the village Well restoration at Endon totalling £1,560 (exclusive of VAT) and subject to the standard grant conditions.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report allows members to consider applications for environmental enhancement and heritage grants under the MPB for funding toward suitable projects within the district.
- 3.2 An application has been received for grant funding towards the restoration of the village Well at Endon, an analysis of the heritage value of the well is outlined at section 7.
- 3.3 Members will recall that given the extraordinary circumstances of last year, the finance team has agreed to roll forward any unallocated funds to the subsequent 4 years funding of the MPB. This provides a total of £60,000 to be allocated each financial year to 2024/25.
- 3.4 Subject to the above grant being approved, this will result in a current budget underspend of £50, 830 in 2021/22. A series of activities have been agreed

going forward to further promote the scheme and encourage uptake of grant funding.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

4.1 This report concerns publicly funding the enhancement, restoration or repair of historic properties or places that are either listed or an identified heritage asset. This, in turn, is related to the Council's corporate aim 3:

- To help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 To not approve environmental and heritage grant awards under the Moorlands Partnership Board and not allocate the capital budget of £60,350 set aside for this grant scheme. As a result, the MPB would not be able to continue to financially assist a number of environmental and heritage projects throughout the district and secure the repair, restoration and enhancement of heritage features, places and buildings. NOT RECOMMENDED

5.2 To continue to approve environmental and heritage grant awards to suitable projects throughout the district and to ensure the allocation of the budget of £60,350 this year. As a result, the MPB can financially assist with projects that secure the repair, restoration or enhancement of heritage features, places and buildings and contribute towards the further regeneration of town and villages through Staffordshire Moorlands. RECOMMENDED

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety – No implications at this stage.

6.2 Workforce – The Moorlands Partnership Scheme is administered by an officer within the Regeneration Team with assistance when required from the council's Conservation Officer.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/ Equality Impact Assessment - No implications at this stage.

6.4 Financial considerations - There are allocations within the capital programme for the funding of the Moorlands Partnership scheme. The latest financial position states that there is £32,098 of outstanding works still to be claimed.

6.5 Legal - Local authorities are empowered to give grants towards improvements in conservation areas under Section 57 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

6.6 Climate Change – No Implications at this stage.

6.7 Consultation – Grant offers are made in consultation with and approved by the Moorlands Partnership Board. Where required, projects that require planning

permission and listed building consent are subject to the normally statutory consultations.

Neil Rodgers Executive Director (Place)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Location

Contact details

Joanne Brooks
Regeneration Officer
joanne.brooks@highpea
k.gov.uk

7. PROPOSED GRANT AWARDS AND FUTURE ACTION

Endon Village Well

- 7.1 A grant application has been received from the Endon Well Dressing Festival Charity for replacement pipework that feeds the Well. The Well stands within the village of Endon. It was constructed by Thomas Heaton in 1845 to provide the village with a reliable source of drinking water and it has continued to flow since that time.
- 7.2 The Well in the centre of Endon is fed water through a pipe from a Well in the field behind. There has recently been a noticeable reduction in the flow rate of water to the point of it almost ceasing to flow at all. In addition, the Well water has an increased level of manganese, potentially making the water undrinkable.
- 7.3 The Well is unusual as it is one of a few outside Derbyshire that practices the tradition of Well dressing. There is a long and unbroken history of the villagers being able to take the waters, which represents an important and significant cultural and social activity that has existed in Endon since 1845. The reinstatement of a safe and continuous water supply will maintain this tradition for future generations.
- 7.4 Two estimates have been received for the works the lowest of which totals £1,560. This allows for replacing the pipework and installing two manholes covers to allow for future inspection and maintenance.
- 7.5 If members recommend approval of the grant applications on this report then the table below represents the current financial position this year.

Scheme	Budget £60,350 2021/22
Grant offers to date:	
6 Russell Street additional grant	£350
St Edward's summer houses	£8,000
Remaining funds	£52,000
Potential grant offers from this report	
Endon Village Well	£1,170

Total remaining funds	£50,830

- 7.6 There is a remaining budget of £50,830 to be awarded this year. This is a significant amount to be allocated within the remaining 4 months of this financial year. Members should note that the usual budget rules apply and there is no ability to carry forward any unused allocation.
- 7.7 In order to try and ensure a good take up of grants the Board agreed the following at their last meeting:
- Increasing the maximum grant award from £4,000 to £8,000.
 - Increasing the grant percentage from 50% to 75%.
 - Offer 'one off' enhanced grant offers over and above the proposed new maximum to key strategic conservation projects.
 - Use the Town Centre Manager for the Moorlands – Lisa Hoyland to actively promote the scheme throughout the Moorlands.
 - Approach town and parish councils for potential projects.
- 3.4 A revised grant leaflet has been prepared and has been circulated to all town and parish council's requesting potential projects. For next year the Regeneration Team will consider implementing a more structured funding scheme whereby town/parish councils can bid for additional funding from the MPB budget to carry out an approved and pre-agreed list of heritage projects that meet the funding criteria. Further details of this will be brought back to the Board next year.
- 3.5 Despite the increase in the grant cap and funding percentage, the general interest in the grant scheme is low. In addition, several anticipated applications have been withdrawn due to the increased costs associated with the construction industry and in particular the cost of timber, that impacts on schemes that involve the repair or restoration of traditional joinery details.