

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

MOORLANDS PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor H Sheldon MBE (Chair)

Councillors M Bowen, E Fallows, M Gledhill, A Hart,
Councillor I Plant, T Riley and P Wood.

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Davies, A Jackson, I Lawson, R Locker, D Shaw,
P Turner, E Wain and S Wales.

38 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**

Councillor Sheldon was appointed as Chair and Councillor Hart as Vice Chair.

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th March 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

40 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:**

Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Items 6, 7 and 8	Cllr A. Hart	Other – A member of Biddulph Town Council, Churnet Valley Railway and Deputy Chair of Peak Leadership Programme. Also involved with the projects in Biddulph supported by the MPB and knows the owners of Mill House Pool, Biddulph.
Items 6, 7 and 8	Cllr H. Sheldon	Other – A member of Biddulph Town Council and the Churnet Valley Railway. Also involved with the projects in Biddulph supported by the MPB and knows the owners of Mill House Pool, Biddulph.

Moorlands Partnership Board - 31 July 2019

Item 6	Cllr T. Riley	Other – Owns shares in the Churnet Valley Railway.
Items 6	Cllr M. Gledhill	Other – A member of the Churnet Valley Railway.

41 FINANCIAL REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF PROJECTS.

The Board received a report introduced by Stephen Robinson, Principal Finance Officer, which provided a financial summary of funding available to the Partnership to allocate during the financial year and included financial tables which provided a summary of grant funding.

Councillor Gledhill asked if monies were ever written off or re-allocated. It was confirmed that any unspent money had to go back into the Council's Capital Programme Fund but there was flexibility within the current years budget to re-allocate funds to other suitable projects. Under normal circumstances, recipients of MPB funding had 2 years to carry out works and draw down the grant.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

42 CURRENT STATUS OF PROJECTS.

The Board received a report and presentation on the current status of projects at:-

- Gazebo, Whitehough, Ipstones - Stone repairs complete. Windows are in place and door to be installed later.
- 67 Tape Street, Cheadle - works delayed will not start until October 2019.
- The Trough, Biddulph – Awaiting commencement.
- Cheddleton Station – Tenders returned, but survey completed so works should be imminent.
- Funerary Monuments - Work commenced and contractor appointed to undertake repair of 4 priorities. Works are now complete on the repair and consolidation of the funerary monuments at Dilhorne (9 listed structures).
- Biddulph Town Council Projects: -
 - **Railings A57** – Railings should be installed over the summer.
 - **Gillow Heath Station** - A small working group had been formed, and this has turned into a four phase project.
 - **Well at Tower Hill Road** - Being kept tidy by the lengthman and the stone sample had been agreed.
 - **Biddulph Grange** - Works complete.

Moorlands Partnership Board - 31 July 2019

- Foxlowe, Leek – Works due to commence, however, returned tenders for the work were far in excess of the original estimates and the Heritage Lottery Funding would not cover the costs of the planned work. Due to this a further grant application had been received.
- Big Mill, Leek – Works complete and grant paid.
- Leekbrook Rail Link – Works onsite.
- 1 High Street, Cheadle – Works on site.
- Leekbrook Interpretation Panels - Historic photographs and text being sourced.
 - Victoria Buildings, Leek – 4A Broad Street ground floor - Grant offer £1356 2018/2019 – No progress.
 - 4A Broad Street upper floor – Update from owner who was keen to take up grant but has lease arrangements to resolve.
 - 4B Broad Street - Update from owners who no longer intend to apply for the grant but do intend to undertake the works. In principle grant allocation was £6,000.
 - 2 Broad Street and 74 Edward Street – No update from owner.

The Board discussed the large increase in the cost of the planned works at the Foxlowe, the viability of Big Mill being converted into domestic dwellings and the security of the building. A request was made for the Regeneration Team to assist with the long term aspirations of the mill and the safety aspects would be looked into.

In relation to Victoria Buildings, members were disappointed that some of the owners hadn't applied for the grant funding and were concerned about the lack of progress in general, particularly with the property being such a prominent building in Leek. A member of the Board raised a possible health and safety issue with the rain water which cascaded into the road from the corner of the property. Details were to be emailed to Joanne Brooks after the meeting. Due to the property being occupied it wasn't possible for the Council to serve a notice for urgent works. As a large sum of money had been held for this project, the Board was asked to consider projects these monies could be re-allocated to.

DECIDED:

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) For the Regeneration Team be requested to assist with the future plans for Big Mill;
- 3) That the safety aspects of Big Mill be reviewed and the outcome reported back to the Board.

43 APPROVAL OF PROJECTS.

The purpose of the report was to seek member's approval to allocate grant funding from the Moorlands Partnership Board (MPB). The budget for this year was £50,000. Whilst we were in a new financial year, it was agreed, at the last Board meeting, to allocate £20,000 from this year's budget to Victoria Buildings. This is reflected in the

Moorlands Partnership Board - 31 July 2019

table below.

Scheme	Budget £50,000
Victoria Buildings (Odeon Antiques)	£20,000 in principle allocation and subject to grant applications from owners. In principle grant of £6,000 to 4B declined. Left: £14,000 for Victoria Buildings
Balance of funds	£36,000

Members had differing views on whether to award additional grant funding to the Foxlowe and discussion also took place around a financial contribution from the Church of England towards the funerary monuments. It was confirmed that a donation had been received from Endon Parish Council but a response hadn't been received from the Diocese of Lichfield.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That members **APPROVED** a grant of £4,000 towards the repair of Tudor House, Cheadle towards the cost of eligible works totalling £13,154.30 The work would be subject to the standard grant scheme conditions and the following technical conditions:
 - Agree specification for any render and timber repairs
 - Agree decoration scheme.
- 2) That Members **APPROVED** an additional grant of £8,000 for the repair and restoration of Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek, towards the cost of eligible works totalling £46,289 (inc VAT). The work would be subject to the standard grant scheme conditions and the following technical conditions;
 - Agree specification for render repairs and colour
 - Agree specification for window repairs and colour scheme
- 3) That Members **APPROVED** additional direct funding of £5,000 to continue the funerary monuments repair scheme at a cost of £10,000. This would allow for the repair of a further 4 listed monuments, with a further £5,000 being allocated for the remaining works at the end of the financial year if funds permit.
- 4) The Board **DECLINED** the match fund request of £5,000 from the Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust towards the Staffordshire Moorlands and Peak District Historic Churchyard Grant Scheme.

44 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

(Councillors Hart and Sheldon declared 'other' interests and took no part in the vote for the grant funding towards the Mill House Pool, Biddulph project).

At this point in the meeting, presentation slides were shown to members on the following anticipated grant applications:-

Moorlands Partnership Board - 31 July 2019

- Café Appolina, Leek
- Market Cross, Cheadle
- St Peter's Church, Alton
- Conservative Club, Leek
- Community Notice Board, Biddulph

Since the reports and agenda for this meeting had been published, an application had been received for the repair and restoration of Mill House Pool in Biddulph, which members gave their consideration to.

DECIDED: That members **APPROVED** a without prejudiced offer of £2364 (inc VAT) towards the repair and restoration of Mill House Pool, Biddulph.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date