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**Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**Report of the Chief Officer for Finance & Legal Services**

**Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust - Grant**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the request for a grant from Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation Trust, deferred from the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

**Background**

2. Ernest Stevens made various donations of property which were to be used for specified purposes. These have been identified as individual Trusts and detailed below:
  - i. Mary Stevens Maternity Home and Public Park Charity.
  - ii. Mary Stevens Park, Recreation Ground and Park, Norton.
  - iii. Stevens Park, Quarry Bank.
  - iv. Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation, Wollescote
3. Only the Stevens Park and Recreation Ground Foundation has investments, which generate income for disbursement.
4. Previously the management of the above trusts was delegated to the Stourbridge Area Committee. Members will be aware that following the consultation on Area Committees and the introduction of Community Forums, the four Ernest Stevens Trusts are now combined under the control of this Committee as Trustees.
5. In the application of the income of the Foundation, the Trustees have discretion to give preference to the area of the former Urban District of Lye and Wollescote and to meeting the needs of the people resident therein.
6. There is no set maximum amount stipulated in the Trust deed for a grant. However, in the past, the Trustees have tended to apply the criteria that the grant should be a maximum of £5000 or 50% of the total cost of a capital project.

## **Application**

### **PEDMORE CRICKET CLUB**

7. Pedmore Cricket Club promotes amateur cricket within the Stourbridge area in accordance with the rules of the English Cricket Board, to provide social and recreational facilities and activities for members and the local community. Activities include cricket matches and coaching for senior and junior members outdoor daily between April and September. Indoor facilities are hired during the winter months. Open all year round, the Club is also a venue for regular meetings of a local Women's Institute, Men's Group, and Residents Association. As well as social events, the facilities are available for use by any group or member of the local community, and are also used by two local Fire Brigades for charity fundraising.
8. Benefitting the communities of Stourbridge, Pedmore, Wollescote and Lye, the Club has 60 senior members, and 120 junior members, plus 150 parents who are termed as social members. In addition, there is considerable use by the wider community – potentially exceeding 500 people per year.
9. Having obtained planning permission, the Club is undertaking a £34,000 extension and refurbishment of the Clubhouse, with a large proportion of the work being carried out by Club members. A grant of £5,000 is requested from the Trust towards the cost of materials for this project. Improvements include extending the main meeting room, and provision of a new kitchen and a separate Ladies toilet.
10. Fund raising to date includes a sponsored coast to coast walk, a "buy a brick" scheme, social events such as quizzes, horse race evenings, barbeques and New Year parties. An application is also being made to Norton and Pedmore Community Forum to help meet cost of new security doors and shutters. To date, £10,436 has been raised towards the works, including a loan of £5,000.
11. Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 show a small profit of £2,213. Total funds available to the Club at Bank and Cash were £6,728. As at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 there was a credit balance of £561 at the Bank.

## **Finance**

12. No grants have previously been awarded during the current financial year.
13. Accounts for 2016/17 have not yet been prepared. Excluding one-off rentals, the ongoing income of the trust available for distribution in 2015/16 was approximately £15,000, and it is expected that this will not significantly change in 2017/18.
14. At a previous meeting of the former Finance (Stevens' Bequests), Sub-Committee, Members agreed to maintain the "real" spending power of the bequest as a fundamental part of the investment strategy. The total sum shown in Paragraph 13 above could be spent without jeopardising the strategy. However, should the value of the investment fall, any income then generated would need to be reinvested and would not be available for disbursement.

## **Law**

15. The Council is successor to the former Stourbridge Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972.
16. Section 139 of the Local Government Act, 1972 empowers the Council to accept, hold and administer gifts of property, where it enables them to discharge any of their functions, and where the gifts are for the purposes of benefiting the inhabitants of their area.
17. The conditions, under which a gift is to be administered, are contained in the Deed creating the Trust, and any subsequent schemes made by the Charity Commission.
18. The law relating to Trusts, which are charitable, is contained in various acts, the main ones being the Charities Act, 1960, the Charities Act 1992 and 1993, and the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

## **Equality Impact**

19. The Trusts have been set up to benefit the public in certain geographical areas of the Borough as outlined in the Deeds of Gift.

## **Recommendation**

20. It is recommended that the Committee consider the request for a grant of £5,000 to Pedmore Cricket Club, as detailed in the report.



## **Chief Officer Finance and Legal Services**

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## **List of Background Papers**

Application form  
Accounts for yr ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
Bank Statement  
Quotation for works