

Minutes of the Trust Council held on Saturday 7th December at 11:15am by electronic means

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: Chris Sims, Chris Bolt, Terry Mundy, Peter Turvey, Rob Dunton, David Fearn, Mike Bailey.

Apologies: Graham Snook

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th November 2020

These were agreed and will be published on the website.

3. Health and safety

Mike Bailey updated Council, no issues to report. A Health and Safety Committee was held on November 19th. The electrical review at Crofton was discussed. An electrical review of Devizes will be conducted by a qualified electrician.

4. Finance Report

Chris Bolt briefed council on the financial position as at 30th November.

OCS Project

The OCS project formally concludes on 12th December. The NHLF has agreed that additional expenditure can be included within the project, for example removal of a dead tree next to the toilet block and the materials for a new fence between there and the entrance, and a motor for the toilet block shutter, totalling £9K. This is in addition to its agreement to fund the electrical rectification work in the Pumping station, which has cost £8.5K. The learning and Community Engagement Officer is also purchasing items to create a 'virtual classroom' and to produce a large working model of the engines which will utilise the existing provision in the budget.

The final grant claim covering expenditure since August of around £33K in total subject to review of the final evaluation report will be £25K.

Grants

Two grants have been received. The Wolfson Foundation has awarded an unrestricted grant of £35K whilst the Wiltshire Community Foundation has awarded a grant of £15K.

Budgets

Budget bids were received from all branches at the end of October. Bids have been based on 'realistically cautious' assumptions of Covid-related restrictions for most of 2021.

Trust Council was asked to endorse reviewed allocated central shared costs between Trust and Enterprise.

Enterprise Central Staff Costs (Jen Furnage and Helen Flavin) 25% reallocated to the Trusts

Trust Devizes Costs 40% reallocated to Enterprise Central as present

Enterprise Postage, software, office machinery 10% recharged to Trust (currently all charged to Enterprise)

Trust Council endorsed this revised cost allocation

It is clear that 2021 will not be a normal year with Covid impacts felt at least until Easter, and probably until the summer. It is therefore not surprising that the bids from Enterprise and Crofton are less optimistic than those reviewed at the July trust council meeting.

Current rough estimates of 2020 end year cash balances, after cost allocations, are

Trust: £500K (of which £100K reflects grants and legacies and the final £25K NHLF payment)

Enterprise: £15K

A cash deficit of £110K based on the detailed budget bids is clearly affordable.

Trust Council agreed the detailed budget bids.

Council noted that a mid-year budget review would be conducted.

5.0. Future Trust strategy and work programme

5.1 Update on implementation

Chris Sims confirmed that the strategy had been circulated to all branches.

6.0. Any Other Business

David Fearn : Discussed the various options the CRT are looking at for Harris Lock at Semington

Chris Sims: Discussed the lease renewal for Aldermaston.

7.0 Dates for future meetings

11th January 2021

15th March 2021

10th May 2021

12th July 2021

13th September 2021

15th November 2021

All meetings to be on Mondays, 11:15am at Devizes unless otherwise agreed.