

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a saltire, a stag's head, a ship, and an eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

Minute of meeting of the Common Good Fund Committee (Falkirk) held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Friday 21 September 2018 at 11.15 am.

Councillors:

David Alexander
Lorna Binnie
Robert Bissett
Provost William Buchanan (Convener)
Dennis Goldie
Cecil Meiklejohn
John Patrick
Pat Reid
Depute Provost Ann Ritchie

Officers:

Danny Cairney, Senior Service Manager, Corporate Finance
Hazel Jones, Senior Accountant
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager

CGF1. Apologies

No apologies were intimated.

CGF2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Reid, as the Treasurer, and Provost Buchanan and Councillor Patrick as members of Friends of Falkirk War Memorial each declared a financial interest in item CGF 7 and took no part in the discussion or decision making on the item.

Councillor Binnie, as Chair of Falkirk Trades Union Council, declared a financial interest in item CGF 8 and took no part in the discussion or decision making on the item.

CGF3. Order of Business

The Convener altered the order of business from that shown on the agenda. The following items have been recorded in the order they were considered at the meeting.

CGF4. Minute

Decision

The Minute of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 was approved.

CGF5. Application for Financial Assistance, Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing a request for funding from Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA) towards the purchase of a trishaw which would be used by the people of Falkirk.

The request was for £8,000 to purchase one of two trishaws. Funding was in place to purchase the second bike.

The senior service manager advised that the balance of Falkirk Common Good Fund was £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest in 2018/19 would generate approximately £27k which would give a projected balance of £796,421 at year end.

After discussion on whether the project fell within the scope of Falkirk Common Good Fund, members concluded that the application provided insufficient information to allow them to make a decision.

Decision

The Committee agreed to continue consideration of this item to allow Communities Along the Carron Association to provide further information on how the trishaw would be utilised, in particular on how it would benefit the people of Falkirk.

CGF6. Application for Financial Assistance, Forth Valley Broadcasting Service – Royal Radio

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing a request for funding from Forth Valley Broadcasting Service toward the cost of providing additional production facilities for the hospital radio service at Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

The cost of the project was £11,316 and funding was sought from the Common Good Fund of £5,000.

Decision

The Committee agreed not to award £5,000 from the Common Good Fund to the Forth Valley Broadcasting Service.

In accordance with earlier declarations, Provost Buchanan and Councillors Patrick and Reid withdrew from the meeting. Depute Provost Ritchie took the chair.

CGF7. Application for Financial Assistance, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing a request for funding from the Friends of Falkirk War Memorial.

The application was for £55,476 for a project to extend the site of the War Memorial in Dollar Park to improve public access. In addition two pillars would be erected to display the names of the war dead from the former burgh. The total cost of the project was £163,977. Funding from other sources for the balance, had been made. The applicant had advised that, should there be a shortfall a further application would be made to the Common Good Fund. In addition any refund of VAT (approx £9,500) would be returned to the Fund after completion of the project.

Members indicated support for the project, but were mindful of the impact of the amount requested and the potential for a further application to be made should there be a funding shortfall. Consequently members discussed the potential of adding caveats to any award.

Decision

The Committee agreed, on condition that full funding is in place prior to the work commencing, to award £55,476 from the Common Good Fund to the Friends of Falkirk War Memorial.

Provost Buchanan and Councillors Patrick and Reid re-joined the meeting. Provost Buchanan resumed the Chair.

In accordance with her earlier declaration, Councillor Binnie left the meeting.

CGF8. Application for Financial Assistance, Falkirk Trades Union Council

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing a request for funding from Falkirk Trades Union Council.

The funding was for the erection of an International Workers Memorial. The cost of the project was £16,500 with £15,500 sought from the Common Good Fund.

Decision

The Committee agreed to award £15,500 to the Falkirk Trades Union Council for the erection of an International Workers Memorial.

Councillor Binnie re-joined the meeting.

CGF9. Application for Financial Assistance, Falkirk Council

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services detailing a request for ongoing funding by Falkirk Council.

The application was for ongoing funding of £6,410 per annum to support Falkirk Local History Society to operate the Steeple as a local heritage space and attraction. The Steeple was leased to Falkirk Community Trust, however the Steeple would be sub-leased to the Falkirk Local History Society to operate the Steeple as an attraction. Although the application was for recurring funding of £6,410 the requirement for funding would be reviewed annually and it was anticipated by the Council's Project Manager that the Steeple would, in time be self-financing. The Committee considered awarding funding for a specific period in light of the management review process. Should the funding not be made available there was a significant risk that the project, which was supported by Falkirk Council, would not go ahead.

Decision

The Committee agreed to provide £6,410 in 2018/2019 and 2019/20, and noted that subsequent applications may be made subject to future management review.