



Agenda Item 4

**Application for Financial Assistance,
Friends of Falkirk War Memorial**

Falkirk Council

Title: Application for Financial Assistance, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial

Meeting: Falkirk Common Good Committee

Date: 18 April 2019

Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 A further application has been received from Friends of Falkirk War Memorial for funding to assist with the restoration of Falkirk War Memorial and the inclusion of the names of the war dead from the former Burgh of Falkirk.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

(1) The application for a further award of up to £44,524 from Falkirk Common Good Fund for restoration of and a plaque on Falkirk War Memorial which has arisen due to a shortfall in funding. This would result in a total of up to £100,000 awarded to this project. Should other funding sources be successful this full amount would not be required.

3. Background

- 3.1 The report to Committee for the meeting on 21 September 2018 is attached as this gives full details of the project.
- 3.2 The information provided for that meeting indicated that the total cost of the project is £163,977 (including VAT) and funding of £55,476 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund. The information also stated that funding applications have been made to other organisations for the balance of the project, however, decisions on these applications have as yet not been confirmed. Should there be a project funding shortfall the applicant has advised they would submit a further application to Falkirk Common Good Fund. There is also a possibility that VAT may be refunded via the Memorial Grants Scheme after conclusion of the project in which case this would be returned to Falkirk Common Good Fund.
- 3.3 The Committee approved funding of £55,476 on the condition that full funding of the project is in place prior to the work commencing. It should be noted that this condition may need to be reviewed in light of this new additional funding request.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Recent information from the Friends advises that the other external funding for the project which had been agreed in principle is now in doubt, hence this further application to Falkirk Common Good Fund. A degree of certainty is required before the Friends tender for the project works.
- 4.2 To allow progress on the project the Friends have requested that Falkirk Common Good Fund underwrite the costs of the project to a maximum of £100,000. Consequently, a further £44,524 is being applied for, albeit this may not all be required.
- 4.3 Work estimates were provided with the letter of 20 March from Mr Morris Robb, £90,494 for extension and repairs and £21,576 for plaques and engraving (VAT inclusive), total £112,070. It has been confirmed with Mr Pat Reid that the project cost has reduced substantially from the original sum quoted and will be around this amount. This reduction is due to a critical review of the original plans with the aim of reducing costs, which included recommendations to use modern concrete instead of the originally planned stone.
- 4.4 The Friends have raised £10,000 by donations to date which has enabled them to progress with appointing local architects and quantity surveyors. A further £10,000 is expected to be raised by October 2019.
- 4.5 Funding of £21,576 has been applied for from Robert Barr Charitable Trust to cover the masonry costs and the outcome of this will not be known until the Trust meet in May.
- 4.6 A further grant of £10,000 has also been applied for from the War Memorials Trust towards the repairs element and the success of this won't be known until July. A condition of this grant is that no repairs work should commence until the application is considered. It has been indicated that this element of the project could incur extra costs due to the condition of the Memorial, but Falkirk Common Good Fund would not be liable for these costs.
- 4.7 The following table summarises the project:

	£
Total project cost	112,070
Project funding:	
Grant awarded by Committee 21.09.18	55,476
External grants applied for:	
- Robert Barr Charitable Trust	21,576
- War Memorials Trust	10,000
Donations received to date	<u>10,000</u>
Total project funding	97,052
(Note: further donations are anticipated but not included in the above figures)	
Falkirk Common Good Funding should external	

grant funding be successful:	
Project Cost	112,070
Project funding	<u>(97,052)</u>
Falkirk Common Good Funding	14,948
Falkirk Common Good Funding should external grant funding be unsuccessful:	
Project Cost	112,070
Friends funding (donations)	<u>(12,070)</u>
Total funding applied for	100,000
Grant awarded by Committee 21.09.18	<u>(55,476)</u>
Falkirk Common Good Funding	44,524
(Note: potential refund of VAT via the Memorial Grants Scheme is not included in the above figures, paragraph 3.2 refers)	

- 4.8 The current balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £761,585. This does not include the previously agreed sum of £55,476 for this project and after including this the fund balance would be £706,109. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 were £28,484 and are anticipated to be around the same amount for 2019/20.
- 4.9 In the financial year 2018/19 £29,910 was awarded in grants (£15,500 to Falkirk TUC Workers Memorial, £8,000 to CATCA for a Trishaw and £6,410 to Falkirk Council for running costs of a local heritage space at the Steeple).
- 4.10 A total sum of up to £100,000 is being applied for. The Committee should consider whether to award the full grant or whether it wishes to increase the grant already awarded, leaving an incentive for the Friends to deliver the balance through other grant funding.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been carried out on the report's proposals.
- 5.2 A member of Friends will be invited to the Committee meeting to provide clarification on the project.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1.1 In terms of this application the Committee is being asked to underwrite a sum of monies still to be determined. This is an unusual request and not in line with normal business terms, therefore, there is a concern this could set a precedent for future applications.
- 6.1.2 By approving this application does the Committee remove the incentive for the Friends to continue with seeking other funding.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations other than Falkirk Common Good Fund could have to fund the full £100,000 for this project.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The sum requested is to a maximum of a further £44,524, albeit this could be less if other funding is successful. Ultimately, the full amount could be called upon for funding from Falkirk Common Good Fund. Therefore, a total of up to £100,000 could be awarded to this project.
- 7.2 The Committee will need to consider if they wish to further reduce the fund balance by awarding this full grant. They should be aware of the unusual nature of this funding application and any implications this may have on future applications.
- 7.3 The Committee could also consider awarding an increase in the grant, hence still incentivising the Friends to deliver the balance. The Committee, on approving the funding of £55,476 on 21 September 2018, agreed the condition that full funding of the project is in place prior to the work commencing.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Date: 15 April 2019

Appendices

- Falkirk Common Good Fund Committee Report dated 21 September 2018.

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from Mr Morris Robb, Chairperson, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial on 14 August 2018.
- Letter received from Mr Morris Robb on 20 March 2019.
- E-mail from Pat Reid, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial representative on 10 April 2019.

Falkirk Council

Title: **Application for Financial Assistance, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial**

Meeting: **Falkirk Common Good Committee**

Date: **21 September 2018**

Submitted By: **Director of Corporate & Housing Services**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 An application has been received from Friends of Falkirk War Memorial for funding to assist with the restoration of Falkirk War Memorial and the inclusion of the names of the war dead from the former Burgh of Falkirk.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to consider:-**

(1) The application for £55,476 from Falkirk Common Good Fund for restoration of and a plaque on Falkirk War Memorial.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Friends of Falkirk War Memorial was set up to repair the Falkirk War Memorial and there are 10 trustees in the group. Each are acting on a voluntary basis, with some providing professional services free of charge.
- 3.2 The group would like to extend the site of the memorial into Dollar Park in order to improve public access, particularly for the elderly and disabled.
- 3.3 Additionally two pillars will be erected which will display, on plaques, the names of the war dead from the former burgh.
- 3.4 The War Memorial is sited on land owned by Falkirk Council.
- 3.5 The group consider that the War Memorial occupies a special place in the community and its restoration including the addition of the names of the fallen will enhance community pride and respect throughout the former burgh and the thousands of relatives of those whose names will appear for the first time will be grateful that the community have at last honoured them. The addition of the names will stimulate further research into the backgrounds of those who died. Young people from the local high schools and primary schools will be heavily involved in the project.

- 3.6 In order to publicise the proposed restoration the group has arranged for an article to appear in the Falkirk Herald and has set up a Facebook page. It will also distribute 3,000 leaflets to local residents to highlight the project.
- 3.7 The War Memorial occupies a special place in Falkirk civic life along with the Steeple and the Trinity (Parish) Church, both of which have previously received substantial funding from the Falkirk Common Good Fund.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is £769,421 at 31 March 2018. Rents and interest received for the financial year 2018/19 are anticipated to be around £27,000, thus giving a projected balance of £796,421.
- 4.2 The last grant funded by the Committee was in January 2017. There have been no grants awarded in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been carried out on the proposals.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The total cost of the project is £163,977 (including VAT) and funding of £55,476 is sought from Falkirk Common Good Fund.
- 6.1.1 Funding applications have been made to a number of other organisations for the balance of the project, however, decisions on these applications have as yet not been confirmed. Should there be a project funding shortfall the applicant has advised it would submit a further application to Falkirk Common Good Fund. The group may wish to consider including a condition that the award, if agreed, is conditional on the remaining funding being secured from other sources. It is possible that VAT may be refunded via the Memorial Grants Scheme after conclusion of the project in which case this would be returned to Falkirk Common Good Fund. This would be approximately £9,500
- 6.1.2 There are a total of 5 applications for funding from Falkirk Common Good to be considered today. These total £90,386, however, it should be noted that one of these applications is for recurring funding of £6,410 per annum.

Resources

- 6.2 There are no resource implications (such as staff and assets) which arise from the report recommendations.

Legal

- 6.3 There are no legal implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Risk

- 6.4 There are no risk implications which arise from the report recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment has not been required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 A sustainability assessment has not been completed as part of compiling this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The sum requested is £55,476. The project is of community benefit.
- 7.2 The Falkirk Common Good Fund has a healthy balance and no grants were approved in the financial year 2017/18 or in 2018/19 so far. Members will need to consider if they wish to reduce the fund balance by awarding the grant.

Director of Corporate & Housing Services

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Date: 17 September 2018

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Application received from Mr Morris Robb, Chairperson, Friends of Falkirk War Memorial on 14 August 2018.