

**LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 7.02pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill**

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: M Byrne**
Town Councillors: E Goody, P Hanlon
and B Hawes

By invitation: Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager, Haverhill Town Council

Six members of the public were present.

MINUTES**ACTION****1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Carr, Russo and G Stroud.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Goody declared an interest in the grant application from CATRA at item 6 on the agenda, as Secretary and Treasurer of that organisation. The Town Clerk advised that he could speak in respect of the application, but should leave the meeting for the duration of further discussion and decision-making on the application.

Cllr Hanlon declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from CATRA at item 6 on the agenda, as an honorary member.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2013 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Town councillors were advised of further information in respect of the applications considered at the previous meeting in respect of Haverhill Silver Band and Haverhill Silver Band Youth and Community Section. The bank balance shown on both applications was insufficient to cover annual turnover of some £11,000. Additional fundraising was undertaken by way of engagements and concerts, member subscriptions, and sales of musical recordings.

5. For Members with Prejudicial Interests and/or Members of the Public to Speak on Matters on the Agenda

No members with prejudicial interests spoke on matters on the agenda.

Warren Smyth, Joint Chief Executive of Abbeycroft Leisure, attended to present on recent and ongoing activities relating to Olympic/Paralympic legacy. Warren explained that Abbeycroft is involved in, but not responsible for legacy actions. It was for individuals and other organisations to embrace the opportunities that are provided. A presentation was provided that outlined a focus on physical activity, the infrastructure to enable this, the involvement of health practitioners, the St Edmundsbury Sports Alliance, the annual sports awards event, local sporting ambassadors, 'schools out' and after school activities, national initiatives, local successes, and issues going forward.

Councillors asked questions as follows:

- Whether GP referrals for physical activity were affordable. Warren said that in general they were but would prefer they were funded by the Health Service.
- How public spending cuts were affecting the efforts. Warren said that it was difficult and that there was no statutory funding, but that initiatives were in place to attract funding.
- What had happened in Haverhill since London 2012 to improve activities. Warren referred back to the range of activities outlined in his presentation, and to a change in individuals' mindsets in terms of both formal and informal sporting activity.
- Whether concessions were in place to encourage pensioner activity. Warren referred to concessions from the Leisure Centre, Walking Group (via GP referral) and the green gym at East Town Park.
- Where handball could be played. Warren said that there were no local facilities and that Ipswich and Brentwood provided the nearest possibilities.
- Where young Haverhill athletes go. Warren referred to some indoor activities at Samuel Ward Academy, and to discussions with school sports masters about outdoor. However, the nearest outdoor track was in Bury St Edmunds.
- How Abbeycroft was approaching Activities for All funding. Warren said he was not sure at present, but was working on how to reach those most in need and making activities affordable.
- Whether part of the former Chalkstone Middle School sports fields could be used as an outdoor track. Warren said he was happy to have a conversation with interested parties.

Cllr Byrne thanked Warren for his attendance and presentation, and for the work Abbeycroft was undertaking.

6. To Determine Current Grant Applications

The Committee agreed the following grant applications:

Organisation Name	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Chalkstone Area Tenants & Residents Association (CATRA)	£400.00	£400.00
Haverhill & District Art Group	£300.00 support £400.00 project	£300.00 £400.00
Haverhill OWLS WI	£300.00 support £300.00 project	£300.00 £300.00
Haverhill Silver Band	£400.00	£400.00
Haverhill Silver Band (Youth & Community Section)	£300.00	£300.00

Cllr Goody spoke in respect of the application from the Chalkstone Area Tenants & Residents Association, and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and decision-making on that application.

Councillors further agreed that any surplus in the community grants fund for 2012/13 should be carried forward to the next financial year.

Cllr Byrne reported that the Women's Refuge had used the Town Council's grant aid to obtain match funding, and had consequently been able to

purchase a replacement vehicle.

7. To Receive a Report on Recent and Future Activities

Nick Keeble, Arts and Leisure Manager, gave a verbal report on recent activities since January 2013, and on significant forthcoming events:

- The live programme had been generally successful and audiences had held up well
- St Nicholas Hospice Care were partnering for the Comedy Festival
- The newly installed digital cinema projector was up and running. The week of free films used to test the projector had attracted over 530 visitors. The new equipment had allowed the Arts Centre to experiment with new content, and the first month of paid screenings had been the most successful for four years.
- 'Event cinema' – live screenings of plays, opera and ballet were now in development, with the first screening scheduled for 21 March. 70 tickets had been sold already and a good audience was expected.

Nick also outlined the forthcoming Town Council events for Easter and circulated the programme.

The Chair thanked Nick for his report and efforts.

Cllr Goody asked whether West Town Park could be used as a boating lake. Nick said that this was unlikely as the lake was leased to the Fishing Club.

Cllr Goody also noted concessionary customers were well treated at the Regent Theatre in Ipswich and that this was worth noting.

8. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.19pm.