

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 28 OCTOBER 2003**

Present:- Councillor G Sell – Vice-Chairman in the Chair.
Councillors E Abrahams, H Baker, P Boland, V Lelliott,
J Loughlin, J Menell, J Murphy, S Schneider and F Silver.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillors R Copping and
A Dean; N B Newman and C Schneider (Museum Society).

Officers in attendance:- J Dickson, S McLagan, B Perkins and C Roberts.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Morson.

The following Members declared interests:

Councillor H Baker insofar as she was a member of the Saffron Walden Arts Trust,
Councillor V Lelliott insofar as he was a member of the Uttlesford CAB,
Councillor J Menell insofar as she was a member of the Primary Care Trust,
Councillor G Sell insofar as he was a member of the Uttlesford CAB and the Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 September 2003 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute CL7 – Swimming lessons at the Dunmow Leisure Centre

In answer to a question, the Head of Community and Leisure Services explained that the price of swimming lessons had been discussed with the contractor who was unwilling to reduce prices at present. Members were pleased to note that non-participating carers were allowed in free of charge.

19 COMMUNITY AND LEISURE GRANT SCHEMES

The Committee received a report about various requests received for grants under some of the Council's grant schemes. The total amount of these would exceed available resources by a very large sum. The report set out possible methods of resolving this situation which the Committee discussed.

It was noted that in paragraph 3 of the report, the budget sum for the Contributions Fund Scheme should read £114,720.

Members were concerned that the large grants required by larger organisations might use up all available funds, leaving none for worthy but smaller organisations. They thought that the larger organisations should be encouraged to seek funding from other sources as well as from the District Council. They felt that in view of the assistance the CAB gave with the work of Social Services, the Essex County Council should be funding the CAB to a much greater extent than it did. It was noted that Norfolk County Council contributed to CAB grant costs equally with its districts.

RESOLVED that subject to provision of funds

- 1 the application from the Uttlesford Citizen's Advice Bureau be granted for each of the years 2004/7 at the existing amount plus 3%
- 2 the applications from Bishop's Stortford CAB, Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Services and the Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau, and the Uttlesford Transport Forum be granted for each of the years 2004/7 at the existing amounts plus 3%.
- 3 the RCCE be granted the sum of £2000 for each of the years 2004/7
- 4 all organisations in receipt of Contributions Fund allocations be requested to provide the Committee, within 18 months, with a presentation on their work.
- 5 consideration of an application from the Thaxted Festival Foundation be deferred to obtain further information.
- 6 the Thaxted Festival Foundation be requested to manage the Festival of Young Musicians from 2005 for three years and the Council provide a grant of £1000pa and underwrite the additional funding requirement of £1000.
- 7 an ad hoc grant of £425 be awarded to Cruse Bereavement Care.

POLICY PRIORITIES AND BUDGETS

The Committee considered the report on Policy Priorities and Budgets for 2004/05 as it affected the budget for the Community and Leisure Committee giving particular consideration to the eleven budget review items.

It was noted that a meeting of the new Museum Working Group was required as soon as possible to effect progress with fund raising projects.

In the light of the Leisure and Cultural Strategy, other obligations, and more realistic assessments of new partnership/sponsorship funding, Members agreed which items should have priority for financial support and which should not be accepted. A proposal was made but lost to reduce the budgeted sum for Community and Leisure – Staffing from £33,000 to £15,000.

RESOLVED

- 1 that the revised 2003/4 budget and draft 2004/5 budget be approved and submitted to the Resources Committee for consideration.
- 2 that the listed budget review items below be approved and submitted to the Resources Committee for consideration-
 - (i) Community and Leisure staffing – Additional Resources £33,000
 - (ii) Leisure and Administration – Introduction of a Leisure Card with no cost to the Council.
 - (iii) Museum – no change to existing charging policy
 - (iv) Tourist Information Centre, Saffron Walden – Sunday Opening £1,300
 - (v) Grants (add £6,000 from previous item)
 - (vi) Crime and disorder survey £10,000 funded from reserves CCTV maintenance contract and Partnership funding £25,000
 - (vii) Drug Awareness – Partnership Income £10,000
- 3 That any grant for Birchanger TIC be deferred for further information
- 4 That additional financial support be not forthcoming for the Thaxted Guildhall.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm