

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Chelmsford Garden Community Council held on 3rd August 2023 at 9.22pm at the Beaulieu Community Centre, 17 Centenary Way, Chelmsford, Essex

Present: Councillors Andrew Wright (Chairman)

Melanie Williamson Daniel Jeffreys Romilly Wakeling Brian Jeapes Cynthia Driver Derek Drew-Smith

Neil Shah

Executive Officer Suzanne Walker

City Councillors Ian Fuller
No members of the public were present

23/95: Apologies

Received from Councillors Golla, Stopher, Tron and Udoh.

23/96: Declaration of interests

Councillors Williamson and Wright both declared a pecuniary interest as Council representatives and Trustees of the Beaulieu Community Trust and both vacated the room for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Drew-Smith being the Vice Chair, chaired the remainder of the meeting.

23/97: To consider a grant application received from the Beaulieu Community Trust

Councillors considered the grant application received and supported by the organisation's constitution and accounts for a grant from the Council. The application was considered with reference to the Council's grant policy. It was noted that in the grant policy, applications are not considered until the November meeting unless extreme urgency can be demonstrated. As a Trustee of the organisation questions were asked of lan Fuller but he was not able to assist regarding the timing of the application.

Councillors considered that the application was very vague with no explanation as to how the money will be used and how it would differ from 'business as usual' at the centre. They would want to see a considered business case to justify how the money would be utilised and clarity on why the money is being requested.

Having considered the application Councillors agreed as follows –

The grant will not be approved tonight as there is a lack of detail. However as the Council considers that this is an organisation that is worthy of support it would wish



them to be invited to provide further information to enable the application to be considered at a future meeting so that the Council can be assured that if it chooses to award a grant that it will be used so as to have a beneficial impact for the Community. The Council wishes to see a detailed breakdown as to how the money would be used, what would be the positive impacts for the community and how that would be measured so as to demonstrate a benefit to the Community and enable the Council to justify making the grant to them. If the Beaulieu Community Trust wishes to have the application considered prior to the November meeting it must provide justification and an explanation as to why it considers the grant to be urgent.

Having concluded the discussion and agreed the outcome Councillors Wright and Williamson were invited back into the room and the outcome was reported to them. An email will also be sent to the Trustees.

Meeting concluded at 9.37pm