

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member [No]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned [Yes] *If yes indicate who and what below*

Cllr Ruth Brown sits on the Community Facilities Capital Grant Panel and is a member of the congregation of the Trinity Life Church, this does not constitute a Disclosable Pecuniary interest. However, to ensure there was no conflict of Interest Cllr Brown declared this, left the meeting and was not involved in any discussion or recommendation on this application.

### SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

#### 1. DECISION TAKEN

The approval of funding awards to the following bodies:

- Holwell Pavilion £50,000 towards the replacement of the sports and recreation pavilion *subject to prior receipt of all written evidence that all matched funding has been secured.*
- Trinity Life Church £50,000 towards the refurbishment and alterations to the Old School House, Royston *subject to prior receipt of all written evidence that all matched funding has been secured.*

#### 2. DECISION TAKER

The Executive Member for Community Engagement in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community

#### 3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

30 April 2021

#### 4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 considered funding applications from the groups listed above and recorded the recommendations to the Executive Member for Community Engagement for the formal commitment of capital funds to each of the respective facilities listed above, via the delegated authority process, subject to the considerations noted at paragraph 7 below..

#### 5. CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation including the effect on stakeholders, partners and the public are contained within the report published with the Community Facilities Capital and District Wide Grants Panel agenda for the meeting on 24 March 2021.

#### 6. APPLICATION DETAILS

##### 6.1 Holwell Sports & Recreation Pavilion

**Applicant:** Holwell Parish Council

**Project:** Building of a new Sports and Recreation Pavilion.

**Sum requested:** £50,000

**Total project cost:** £148,000

**Joint funding:** £50,000 Secured from Settle Group  
£25,000 Secured from Rands Educational Foundation

*£25,000 to be confirmed by Football Association.*

**Funds held** £6,659 as of March 2020

**Previous support** None In the last 6 years received

**All application**

**requirements met? Yes**

The Holwell Parish Council are requesting funds in order to replace the current pavilion which has no foundations and is in a state of disrepair.

It is currently used all year round, but there are several issues with the building and the Parish Council must continuously spend money on repairs.

Ickleford Cricket Club have 3-4 teams regularly throughout Spring and Summer including 2 colt teams. Hitchin Hawkes and Harriers Football Club currently have 2 different teams using the facilities throughout Autumn and Winter. A local Scout organisation use the facilities for a weekend every year and Holwell Parish Council hold some meetings there. It has been used regularly for community picnics and events by the residents of Holwell.

The current pavilion was built circa 1958 and is no more than a frame building without footings or foundations. Rather than continually paying to maintain an old structure with a limited life span the Parish Council are seeking funding towards a new build.

The new pavilion will service the existing sports clubs that currently use the building as changing facilities. In addition to it being a valuable community resource as a space to hire for both private and community events, clubs, activities and meetings.

Based on a survey taken by Holwell Parish Council, the residents of Holwell would use the pavilion for meetings, coffee mornings, exercise classes, youth clubs, parties and for community events such as village picnics and fetes.

The building is owned by the Parish Council, but the land is owned by the Rand Educational Foundation who are being asked for a contribution to the building costs. Settle Group PLC (Housing association) have many tenants in the village who will benefit from the facility and have agreed to match funding provided by North Hertfordshire District Council. If the application is successful, the Officers will not process payment of grant funding until they are in receipt of evidence that all joint funding has been agreed.

The Parish Council have approached the Football Association who have agreed 'in principle' to provide £25,000 towards the project. If the Parish Council are successful in received the funding from the Football Association this will, in fact, provide them with a total of £150k successfully raised. This is £2,000 over the amount required for the capital costs of the build. The £50,000 provided by North Hertfordshire District Council will only be used towards capital costs.

The joint funders may not have made any stipulation to whether their funds will be used for capital or revenue costs. This means that the Parish could utilise the remaining £2,000 on additional costs such as décor, fixtures and fittings for the completed build.

The Parish Council themselves have set aside £10,000 to use towards the project but this will be for contingency and any revenue costs, fixtures and fittings etc.

*The Members of the Panel recommended an award of £50,000 amount subject to prior receipt of all evidence that all matched funding was secured.*

## 6.2 Trinity Life Church

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Trinity Life Church</b>
<b>Project</b>	Refurbishment and alterations to the Old School House
<b>Sum requested</b>	<b>£50,000</b>
<b>Total project cost</b>	£124,144.88
<b>Match funding</b>	£34,144.88 from group's current charity funds. £30,000 pending from Brian Leslie Racher Trust and £10,000 pending from Johnson Matthey
<b>Funds held</b>	£67,783.28 as of March 2020
<b>Previous support</b>	£700 received in 2015 to assist with set up of Make Lunch Project
<b>All application requirements met?</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Trinity Life Church is seeking funding support from the Community Facilities Capital Projects Fund to assist with a refurbishment and alterations project at The Old School House, Royston. The project will include the refurbishment of the meeting room office, the toilets and the kitchen to improve disabled access, energy efficiency and bring the accommodation up to current standards. The Old School House previously provided a Youth Club to the Town and was in operation for over 20 years.

Trinity Life Church is a registered charity and a Community Interest Organisation. It is made up of 6 Volunteer Committee Members, 2 Part time paid staff and approximately 100 volunteers. Trinity Life Church have recently purchased the Old School House. The building is owned by Trinity Life Church via a mortgage. It is the groups ambition to use the refurbished building to support the vulnerable and lonely in the Community regardless of their race, gender or social status as well as local businesses and community focussed organisations.

The building is currently used for church services and activities and is also the hub for *Make Lunch* which is a community focussed project that has been running for 6 years, supporting families who receive free school meals during term time by providing free meals and activities during school holidays. There has been considerable interest from groups/organisations wishing to use the venue which will come to fruition once the refurbishment project has been completed. There are plans for a friendship café for the elderly, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) money management and debt advice and toddler groups. There is also interest from a Pop-Up Theatre company to use the building, as well as a possible Youth Club provision, a hub for numerous support groups including *HomeStart* and *Mind* and a Feminine Hygiene support group. There is a definite need in the town for this project and given the substantial match funding in place, the officer recommendation is to support the application. If the application is successful, the Officers will not process payment of grant funding until evidence all joint funding has been received.

*The Members of the Panel recommended an award of £50,000 amount subject to prior receipt of all evidence that all matched funding was secured.*

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Terms of Reference state that the Member Community Facilities Capital Grants Panel is to: -

- Act as an advisory panel to the Executive Member for Community Engagement, in consultation with Service Director: Legal and Community as the relevant delegated officer for the Community Facilities Capital Grant Funding Scheme.
- To comment on grant applications in accordance with the criteria for the Community Facilities Grant Funding Scheme.

7.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything if it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.

7.3 Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

7.4 The decision taker signing the Decision Notice has delegated authority to take such a decision in accordance with the North Hertfordshire District Council Constitution under section 14.6.8(b)(iii)(A) in relation to Community engagement and development, including financial assistance and grants to external organisations.

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current balances in the Capital budget are as follows:

		£	
<b>Community Facilities Budget</b>		<b>1,206,000</b>	
Grants Awarded:			
2017/18	165,400		
2018/19	307,700		
2019/20	210,000		
2021/21	257,600	940,700	
Grants Awarded but not Drawn:			
Mrs Howard Hall	32,000		Grant approval expires 27 May 2021
Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Parish Church, Hitchin (Scout Hut)	50,000	82,000	Grant approval expires 27 May 2021
Grants detailed in this report			
Holwell Parish Council	50,000		
Trinity Life Church	50,000	100,000	
<b>Available Unallocated Budget</b>		<b>183,300</b>	

**9. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Risk, the Council’s performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

**10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

10.2 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

**11. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

**12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

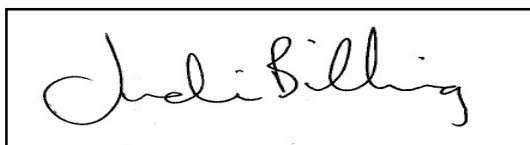
12.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

30 April 2021



**Signature of Executive Member Decision taker .....**

**Date ...29.4.21.....**

**Signature of Service Director: Legal and Community**



**Please Note: that unless urgency provisions apply EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**