



GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 104/18

12 NOVEMBER 2018

The purpose of this Report is to update Members on recent developments in respect of three grant applications: the War Memorial, the Esplanade Water Fountain and the Glanville Fritillary Butterfly site.

No. DETAILS

1) WAR MEMORIAL

- a) Confirmation of a grant of £1,740 towards the cost of restoring the slate attached to the War Memorial with the names of those who died in service in the Second World War was received from the War Memorials Commission but has subsequently been withdrawn.
- b) The Town Council and the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion had agreed to commission the quotation from Wight Stonemasonry although it was more expensive, on grounds of known quality.
- c) The grant of £1,740 was based on 50% of the less expensive quotation and the Town Council and the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion agreed to bridge the resultant funding gap on a 50/50 basis.
- d) When the War Memorials Commission received – as required – Wight Stonemason's Method Statement for the work, the grant offer was withdrawn on the basis that not accepting the lower quote is only possible according to their rules if invited tenderers had been specifically informed that cost would not be the only consideration in the selection.
- e) As time did not allow for a new procurement process in view of the importance of the 11 November events this year and given that Wight Stonemasonry had already begun work I asked for the decision to be reconsidered; I was invited to submit a response to their decision for assessment by a Director and that is attached to this Report for Members' information.
- f) The Conservation Officer responded by email on 10 October to inform that the matter had been referred to a Director who had confirmed the decision to withdraw the grant offer.
- g) The good news is that Wight Stonemasonry completed the work on Thursday 8 November, in time for the 11 November Services.

2) ESPLANADE WATER FOUNTAIN

- a) A grant application for £2,820, requiring match funding of £1,882, approved by the Town Council at its August meeting for the renovation of the Water Fountain was submitted to Down to the Coast in advance of the latest deadline on 10 October.
- b) However, following a meeting with the Town Council's Lead Member for Assets, James Toogood, it became clear that funding would only be available if the Fountain is restored to its original Victorian condition.
- c) As that would require considerably more extensive and expensive works the application has been withdrawn.

3) GLANVILLE FRITILLARY BUTTERFLY SITE

- a) Natural England have confirmed the availability of an additional £1,000 grant for this year to fund maintenance works on the site.
- b) Andy Butler, who oversaw the initiation of the site last year, has agreed to make the arrangements for its maintenance in accordance with the grant conditions.

4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- i) note the developments in the grant applications for the War Memorial, the Esplanade Water Fountain and the Glanville Fritillary Butterfly site; and
- ii) agree the additional £1,740 funding for the completion of the works on the War Memorial.



CHANGE OF CONTRACTOR RESPONSE

Please accept my apologies for failing to register the Trust's Procurement requirements in this application. I hope that the following considerations may enable your Director to allow the change of contractor in this instance.

- The quotations were obtained by the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion in February and March this year, well in advance of the application for grant funding
 - I had assumed that it was our financial regulations that would govern the commissioning of the contractor for the works. Paragraph 11(h) of those regulations is explicit in this respect: *The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.*
 - The lower priced contractor has not quoted for an exact match for the original Island Sandstone – which Wight Stonemason's proposed use of Forest of Dean Sandstone will be - or for the use of the matching Corbels; these two differences more than account for the price differential.
 - The Town Council and the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion have jointly agreed to fund the additional £1,642 necessary to complete the £2,770 match requirement.
 - If the Trust is willing to allow this to proceed, works will be completed in time for the major events that will take place at the Memorial on 11 November this year.
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