

## **BLINDCRAFT CHARITABLE TRUST FUND.**

Glasgow, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Present: Councillor Robert Mooney (Chair) and Bailie Annette Christie, Glasgow City Council; Jimmy O'Rourke; Fiona Sandford, Visibility; and David McKerral.

Attending: T Coyle (Clerk), A Clarke, E Galletly, A Clarke and C Woodley, Glasgow City Council; and I Mann, Auditors Scott Moncrieff.

### **Introductions.**

1 The Trust were welcomed to the meeting.

### **Appointment of Trustees and Ex Officio Local Authority update noted.**

2 There was submitted a report by Elaine Galletly, Head of Legal and Administration, advising of an update regarding the appointment of a new Trustee and of an Ex Officio Local Authority Trustee from outwith Glasgow City Council, advising

- (1) Scottish Local Government Elections had taken place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 when all Councillor ex officio posts had lapsed (3 posts in total);
- (2) Councillor Robert Mooney and Bailie Annette Christie were appointed by Glasgow City Council to act as ex officio Trustees on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017;
- (3) that it was agreed by the Trust on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 that an ex officio Trustee from one of the other participating local authorities would be appointed to the Trust and remain in post until the next Local Government Elections and a request had been made therefore to South Ayrshire Council, who declined to make an appointment. Consequently, a request had now been made to Dumfries and Galloway Council and confirmation of an appointment was expected on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017; and
- (4) the appointment of Councillor Robert Mooney as an ex officio trustee meant another vacancy had arisen and that the Trust had agreed to appoint Mr David McKerral as a Trustee.

After consideration, the Trustees noted the report.

### **Appointment of Chair for 2017/18 agreed.**

3 The Trustees agreed to appoint Councillor Robert Mooney as Chair for 2017/18.

### **Minutes of previous meeting approved.**

4 The minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were submitted and approved.

### **Trust accounts 2016/17 – Approval of trust accounts and audit report.**

5 There was submitted a report by Indie Mann of Auditors Scott Moncrieff regarding the annual accounts for 2016/17 and audit management report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, advising that

- (1) the Blindcraft Trust Fund annual accounts had been completed for the financial year 2016/17 and had been audited by Scott Moncrieff with the accounts having received an unqualified audit opinion; and
- (2) Scott Moncrieff had issued their report on the accounts and a letter of representation which required to be signed by 2 Trustees, as detailed in the report, prior to the accounts being signed off; and
- (3) that the current balance of the Trust Fund was £2,637,015.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) noted the auditor reports for the Fund from Scott Moncrieff; and
- (b) approved both the accounts and the Auditor's recommendations.

### **Trust accounts 2017/18 – Monitoring statement noted.**

6 There was submitted and noted a financial monitoring statement by the Head of Corporate Finance regarding the financial position of the Blindcraft Trust for the period April 2017 to October 2017, advising that

- (1) the Trust had agreed to limit expenditure to £125,000 financial year 2017/18;
- (2) the total expenditure from April 2017 – October 2017 had been £39,426;
- (3) monies totalling £12,706 had been returned to the Trust from SITE;
- (4) the remaining budget for 2017/18 was £98,280;

After consideration, the Trustees noted the report.

## Trust Accounts – Applications for funding noted.

7 There was submitted a report by Catherine Woodley, Funding Support Officer, Chief Executive's Department, regarding applications for funding in 2016/17, advising that

- (1) the Trust had made contact with the 10 previously agreed organisations namely City Building (RSBi Factory); RNIB; Playback; Visibility; Rex Blind; Guide Dogs Scotland; Talking Newspaper Association; Deafblind Scotland; Scotland Macular Society and KLD Tape Service;
- (2) 8 of the 10 organisations had expressed an interest in applying for funding from the Trust and they had been invited to submit proposals based on the level of grant each had been assessed as being suitable to manage as follows;

Medium Grant (£5K to £25K)

(RSBi)City Building  
RNIB  
Visibility  
Guide Dogs  
Deafblind Scotland

Small Grant (up to £5K)

Saltire Strikers  
Macular Society  
Rex Blind

- (3) Rex Blind had not completed all relevant paperwork as required by the Trust's guidelines.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) noted the report;
- (b) agreed that Rex Blind's application would be withdrawn due to insufficient paperwork being provided; and
- (c) dealt with the applications as detailed in the report, as follows;

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Purpose of application</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Saltire Strikers	To purchase new equipment and kits' including lockers and rails to provide safety and security	Awarded £5,000

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Purpose of application</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Guide Dogs	To purchase a range of early years and specialist sensory resources to support the delivery of the habilitation programme	Awarded £15,782
Macular Society	Towards the cost of employee costs and expenses	Awarded £5,000
Royal National Institute of Blind People	Towards the cost of running 'Living with sight loss' courses	Awarded £18,135
*RSBi	Towards the cost of resources and tutors	Awarded £12,000
**Visibility	Towards the cost of delivering a communications project over 2 years	Awarded £15,000 p/a for a 2 year period, the second year period being subject to available funds
Deafblind	Towards the cost of the Connect 2 Support project running costs	Awarded £24,000

\* Councillor Robert Mooney declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

\*\* Fiona Sandford declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

After consideration and having heard Jimmy O'Rourke the Trustees

- (a) noted the concerns expressed regarding the dated equipment and software available at the Resource Unit for the Visually Impaired (RUVI) at the Mitchell Library;
- (b) requested further information in relation to the resource unit within the Mitchell Library; and

- (c) agreed that Glasgow Life would be invited to apply for funding in the financial year 2018/19 in relation to its resource Unit for the Visually Impaired (RUVI) at the Mitchell Library

**Date of next meeting.**

- 8** The Trust agreed that the date of the next meeting would be March 2018, and the Trustees would be notified of the fixed date via email.