

**Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 9th April 2024**

Item 11: Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement Project* *To consider TRAYEs response to the Parish Council’s resolution made at the March meeting*

Cllrs are reminded that the Parish Council made the following resolution at the meeting of 12th March 2024:

- Following discussion, **it was RESOLVED** to make a grant of £1750 to TRAYE to operate youth activities in Harberton Parish once per month for the full financial year.
- It was noted that the grant offer is increased to half the amount requested for half the number of sessions but over the full year. This is suggested as a means to enable continuation of the club whilst the Parish Council can consult with the community on their view on making increases to the precept to fund youth activities, and reappraise funding when the 2025/26 budget is considered in December 2024.
- It was agreed that when responding to TRAYE with this grant offer, to request more information from TRAYE about ‘what success looks like’ for the organisation and how it measures success of the youth activities run in Harbertonford.

Cllrs are informed that following the resolution made at the last meeting, there has been correspondence with a Trustee of TRAYE which is laid out below. Comment has been made on 6 key matters in addition to commentary on the resolution. The correspondence on each matter is laid out on the following table:

Email from TRAYE Trustee to the Clerk 25th March 2024	Email from the Clerk to the TRAYE Trustee 26th March 2024	Response from TRAYE Trustee to the Clerk 29th March 2024
Core matter: The Parish Council’s resolution		
<p>Traye held its AGM on Friday and I can now respond to some of the issues you raised. Sorry about the delay as time is clearly running out.</p> <p>The Trustees have discussed this with <i>[the lead Youth Worker]</i> and we have reservations about your proposal , namely that once a month will not be sufficient to maintain the interest and enthusiasm and therefore the numbers attending, especially if this continues for the whole of 2024/25. Assuming you have an APM fairly early in the New Year would this not provide the steer as to whether you wish to continue or not. If the answer is yes that should give you time to find the additional funding for this year even if out of Reserves? If it would be of help we would ask a Youth Helper and perhaps a young person to attend the APM and talk about Traye.</p>	<p>I will present responses back to the Council for consideration at the earliest opportunity, which is probably the next meeting in April.</p> <p>I can't comment on behalf of the Parish Council re a response to your concerns or in finding reserves but I can respond with some factual responses:</p>	

<p>We are prepared to offer a monthly service but strongly believe it is not the right path.</p> <p>To deal with some of the other issues you raised:</p>		
<p>Matter 1: Fair approach to council contributions</p>		
<p>The question of what is the fairest approach to Council contributions has been settled as a fixed sum for each Council depending on the number of sessions. The question of what is fair has been discussed at length and was the reason that Rattery dropped out. They felt that as a smaller Parish , they should pay less. However the Councils I spoke to were happy that it should be a fixed sum, which includes Staverton and Holbeton, both I believe smaller than Harberton. The Trustees decided that this is the fairest basis. I would be interested in where the 1% figure came from.</p>	<p>All Town/Parish Council budgets (or decisions about budgets) are available on individual council websites so I compiled information and worked out the percentage costs of the £3500 funding request from TRAYE to those council budgets. See page 4 of the papers I compiled for cllrs ahead of discussion at the meeting: /https://www.harbertonparishcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/11-TRAYE-Funding.pdf</p>	<p>I think the information you present is fair, although I would exclude Totnes as it somewhat distorts the figures and much of what has been supplied in Totnes has been done on a fully funded basis. It was quite difficult to settle on a fair basi [sic] for payment. Harberton's last attendance for instance was 24, whereas Staverton averages about 15. These numbers vary and have occasionally been up to 40 which then incurs additional costs. We could breakdown all that information and possibly produce a fairer basis but that would involve more cost which would have to be paid for. The basis has, albeit with reluctance by 1 Council, been accepted and Harberton is the only outstanding one.</p>
<p>Matter 2: Request for more information on 'what success looks like' for TRAYE and how it is monitored</p>		
<p>On the question of information it is quite reasonable for you to ask for more and that is originally one of the purposes of both the SLA and the MOU. However despite not adopting either of those, we will supply additional information this year. If any Councillors doubt the activities, is this based on observation i.e. have they attended and if so then any feedback or suggestions would be appreciated. One of our measures of success is whether youngsters actually turn up - your last session incidentally had 24 youngsters, which we believe is a good number. We have had more at some other Parishes, but then of course we have to supply additional support all of which is an extra expense.</p>	<p>Thanks for info. I think [the Chair of Trustees] indicated that there might be some reports compiled for other funders? Does TRAYE keep records on numbers, have a mission statement or expected outputs/outcomes laid out anywhere?</p>	<p>We are starting to compile numbers of attendees but it is not readily available for previous years without again considerable admin effort. There is the Annual Report which you should now have. As far as I know the only "Mission statement" is laid down in our Constitution which I can send you if you would like a copy.</p>

Matter 3: Future consultation ahead of potential increase in contribution		
I agree with your concern about the sidestepping of protocol re the <i>[Community Benefit Fund]</i> CBF. However I believe we have the solution to avoid doing that. If we go down the monthly approach, it will not arise whereas if you agree to our suggestions re continuing fortnightly sessions, it will be up to the PC to decide when the notice deadline is reached as to whether it can guarantee further funding. It may well be that your Annual Parish Meeting if held in time will be able to provide the steer as to how important your young people are.	I'll present this back to the Parish Council for their consideration. I will comment however that the Annual Parish Meeting in Harberton Parish is not usually very well attended. Cllrs proposed consultation in the community on raising the precept and I would expect that they would wish for this to have a good proportion of responses for it to carry weight. The Annual Parish Meeting could be a vehicle for this, but might need other forms of engagement to get a good response from across the community.	I take your point re attendance at Annual Parish Meetings, although here at Staverton we do quite well normally. I can only suggest that you highlight what you may need to do i.e. raise the precept and see how many turn up. My principle is that if people have been advised and don't attend then they can hardly be surprised at the outcome.
Matter 4: Advertising in Harberton Village E-Circular		
Note your offer to promote Traye via <i>[Harberton Village Circular]</i> . <i>[The Chair of Trustees]</i> will let me have his details and we will make contact.	Noted <i>[website and contact details supplied]</i>	I have been in touch with <i>[Harberton Village Circular]</i> and we will prepare an article for him.
Matter 5: TRAYE trustee representing Harberton(ford)		
If you have a Councillor or a parent who would be interested in being a Trustee we would welcome their name. When Traye was originally set up it was envisaged that there would be some representation on the Trustee Board from Councils. We don't have many reps. and would welcome more. I have found that being actively involved has more than convinced me of the value of what is being achieved.	[Clerk provided information on the parent who had attended the meeting and who indicated openness to learning more about what the Trustee role entailed.]	I will give [the Youth Worker] the name and ask her to make enquiries at the next meeting. Ideally of course we would like a Councillor as I suspect part of the problem is that there is insufficient understanding about the value that Traye contributes.
Matter 6: Annual report		
The Annual report was presented at the recent AGM and that will be forwarded to you shortly.	Great thanks, I will forward to cllrs when received.	