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**Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Caterham on the Hill Parish Council held at 7.00pm on
Wednesday 20th September 2023
at the Westway Centre, Chaldon Road, Caterham**

Present: Cllr Vicky Robinson (Chairperson), Cllr D Carpenter, Cllr G Dennis, Cllr M Grasso, Cllr L Sowambur, Cllr E Payne.

In attendance: Mrs H Broughton (Clerk).

23/49 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr G Duck, Cllr C Botten and Cllr H Bilton

23/50 **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest arising from the agenda.

23/51 **Public forum:** There were no members of the public present.

23/52 **Grant request for Ukrainian support**

A grant request had been received from the Caterham Barracks Community Trust (The Arc), seeking £5,300 to support Ukrainian refugees.

The Chair proceeded to read a statement from Cllr Bilton.

During the discussion, it was acknowledged that the Parish Council had already made a substantial contribution including participation in assistance efforts coordinated by the Westway Centre in 2022 and financial backing for events held at the Arc for Ukrainian refugees from 2022 to date.

Various considerations were raised, including the most appropriate support as refugees became more integrated into society, the level of financial support the Parish Council should provide, and whether support should extend to individuals residing outside Caterham on the Hill, particularly since most event attendees did not reside within the area. Furthermore, it was observed that the level of support from Caterham on the Hill Parish Council exceeded that of neighbouring parishes, and alternative funding sources were available.

There was a consensus among members that ongoing support should be gradually phased out to allow the Arc to seek assistance from other stakeholders but that dialogue between the Arc and the Parish Council should continue.

It was suggested that the support provided by the Parish Council thus far should be publicised. Cllr Payne agreed to provide the Clerk with the necessary information for this purpose.

It was proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Dennis that the grant application be rejected but that the Parish Council continue to support social events, soft play and a Christmas Party until the end of December up to a total maximum cost of £3,800 with the Caterham Barracks Community Trust invoicing the Parish Council. From 2024 the Arc would be encouraged to investigate other sources of funding and the Parish Council would not guarantee any further financial support but would maintain a dialogue with the Arc. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm