

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 30th January 2023
Title: Grants & Subsidised Lettings
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

The budget for general grants (4100/407) for the financial year, 2022-23, budget cycle was £23,740*
*£3,740 was brought forward from the previous year

The budget for subsidised lettings (4110/407) for the financial year, 2022-23, budget cycle was £1,800.

Discretionary Grant Applications

The following applications for discretionary grants have been received: -

1. Witney Town Band (Training Band)

A request for £300 has been received from the Witney Town Band Training Band towards the routine running of the band and maintenance repair of training instruments.

Members should note that £660 was awarded to the Senior Witney Town Band within this financial year at the June 2022 meeting of this committee. The Band were advised that as the training band were a completely different group, that this application could be considered within the same year.

2. Clean Slate

A request for £500 has been received from Clean Slate to help towards support those suffering domestic abuse in the cost of living crisis.

3. Witney Talking News

A request for £500 has been received from Witney Talking News to help towards funding publicity and new recording/editing software.

Subsidised Letting Applications

The following applications for subsidised letting of the Councils premises have been received: -

1. Wear Without Waste

A request for £283.33 for subsidised hire of the Corn Exchange to hold a fashion show on 18 February has been received. This new business is trying to repurpose second hand garments to build sustainability and promote a circular fashion system.

Youth Services Grant 2022-23

The Parish of Witney contacted Officers to advise that they would not be claiming the award of £2,500 agreed by the Council in October 2022.

The reasons why are in the email provided as an appendix to this report. Members should consider whether these funds are retained, redistributed or ring-fenced for the Parish of Witney Project in the new financial year.

Additional Financial Requests & Matters

Witney Music Festival

As part of the Council's desired commitment to an ongoing partnership with Witney Music Festival, the Council should consider the amount of funds available to the Leys event in the new financial year (June 2023). The request is for £10,000.

In addition to the amount provided, the Council should also consider the subsidised letting cost of this event which will be £2,214.

Witney Carnival Committee

Witney Carnival has submitted a grant request form for £2,100 towards the 2023 Carnival to be held on The Leys in July.

In addition to the amount provided, the Council should also consider the subsidised letting cost of this event which will be £1,660.50.

LibFest

LibFest will hold its last event in June 2023 and has submitted an application for subsidised hire of The Leys for £1,476.

Witney Pride

Witney Pride will be holding a day's event at The Leys on 27th May. Members should consider whether to allow subsidised hire of the ground which will be £738.

A damage deposit of £1,000 will need to be paid prior to all the events above and will be returned after the event providing there is no damage.

Oxfordshire Play Association

The new year's OPA Play Day has been set for 3rd August and will be held at Oxlease. The event is classed as a Town Council event, but OPA manage and administer the event. OPA have submitted a grant form for this year's event for £1,000 and as usual, will source grant funding from other organisations.

Volunteer Link Up

The Council has received a letter of thanks from Volunteer Link Up for the grant of £2,000 awarded in 2022/23.

Environmental impact

There would be no direct environmental impact if these requests were granted. The environmental impact for events on the Recreation Ground will be dealt with by the committees that have the jurisdiction over them.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The Council has a policy and criteria for which it uses to award its grants to ensure public funds are allocated and used appropriately.

The Council has the General Power of Competence (GPC) which generally discretionary grants are awarded under.

Financial implications

As outlined in the report and grant applications.

- The remaining budget for discretionary grant applications in the current year is £18,366.66*
- The remaining budget for subsidised lettings is £960.43
- Subsidised Lettings at The Leys come under budget line 4110/202 which has a budget of £10,000 for 2023/24 and would therefore cover all these Leys community events charges (£4,612.90).
- The grant request for Witney Carnival and Rotary Xmas Lights Switch is budgeted in the new year for the amount of £4,500 on line 4104/408
- The grant request for Witney Music Festival will need to be covered from an underspend in the discretionary grant budget (4100/407).
- Oxfordshire Play Association has a separate budget agreed for £1,000 in 23/24 (4106/408)

*does not include any award to Clean Slate or Witney Town Band Training Band

Recommendations

Members are invited to note this report and;

1. Consider the requests for discretionary grant funding from Witney Town Band Training Band, Clean Slate, and Witney Talking News and;
2. Consider the request for subsidised letting from Wear Without Waste and;
3. Consider what action it would like to take concerning the Parish of Witney unclaimed Youth Services Grant and;

4. Consider The Leys subsidised letting requests and allocation for Witney Music Festival, Witney Carnival, LibFest, and Witney Pride and;
5. Consider grant requests from Witney Music Festival and Witney Carnival and;
6. Consider releasing the payment of £1,000 to Oxfordshire Play Association and;
7. Note the letter of thanks from Volunteer Link Up.