

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 27 March 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 halls 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. 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. This request was deferred from the last meeting to allow for further information to be provided.

2. Rotary Club of Witney

A request for £500 has been received towards the organisation of a Colour Run Event being held on 21 May 2023.

The Rotary Club was awarded the same amount for the event in May 2022 which was later cancelled and therefore the funds were not released. An amount of £196.00 was given to the Club for subsidised hire of the Corn Exchange for its Firewalk event on 23 March but as this was a subsidised let, this would not restrict a further grant payment in this current fiscal year under the Council's policy.

The Rotary Club is awarded funds towards the Christmas Lights Switch On event, but this is budgeted for separately and is an annual grant.

Subsidised Letting Applications

The following applications for subsidised letting of the Council's premises have been received: -

1. Witney Photo Group

A request for £340 has been received from the group for subsidised hire of the Corn Exchange for one day to hold a photographic exhibition of members' work.

Additional Financial Requests & Matters

Witney Talking News

The Council has received an email passing on thanks from Witney Talking News for the £500 grant awarded at the meeting of this committee on 30th January.

Witney Pride

The Council has received an email passing on thanks from Witney Pride for the subsidised letting of the Leys Recreation Ground this year as agreed at the meeting of this committee on 30th January.

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 £7,536.66.
- The remaining budget for halls subsidised lettings is £481.10.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note this report and;

1. Consider the requests for discretionary grant funding from Clean Slate and the Rotary Club of Witney;
2. Consider the request for subsidised letting from Witney Photo Group and,
3. Note the letters of gratitude from Witney Talking News and Witney Pride.