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**Agenda Item:** Financial Matters referred from Spending Committees

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 3 February 2025

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

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### Background

It is the Council's usual practice that all matters discussed, and recommendations made by spending Committees which have financial implications, are reported to this committee. This Committee is responsible for the overall fiscal management of the Council.

### Current Situation

#### **Parks & Recreation Committee – 13 January 2025**

**PR22** – Unterhaching Park Lighting – The Committee acknowledged the cost of lighting in Unterhaching Park as approx. £2,250 per annum which had not previously been budgeted for. It was hoped this could be reduced by changing supplier.

#### **Halls Cemeteries & Allotments Committee – 20 January 2025**

**H29** Public Halls Report – The Committee recommended that a subsidised let of the Corn Exchange be granted for the showing of a film produced by a local young filmmaker and shot at Ducklington Lake, for the sum of £160.

**H35** – Burial Fees – The Committee recommended that interment charges be increased by 6.3% and that the cost of purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial be increased by 15%.

#### **Stronger Communities Committee – 27 January 2025**

**SC** – Communications Report – The Committee noted the annual newsletter would be procured from the 2024 supplier and delivered via Royal Mail within the agreed budget. Also included was an additional £145 for hand delivery in Windrush Place which could not be covered by Royal Mail.

**SC** – Community Engagement Report – The Committee recommended diverting In Bloom funds for 2025/26 to a rejuvenation project at the Unterhaching Park wooded area (cost tbc) if the Council did not enter the Lake & Country Park for the annual competition.

**SC** – Community Engagement Report – The Committee approved the recommendations and financial implications of the VE & VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task & Finish Group in expending the £1,000 budget for the events.

**SC – Salt Bin Requests –** The Committee recommended the purchase of a salt bin for Swingburn Place, Witney from Oxfordshire County Council for the sum of £300 (budget line 4200/402).

**SC – Third Party Events Report –** The Committee recommended a time extension request from Witney Music Festival (2 extra days for set-up and take down) be approved. The extension resulted in an additional sum of £854 for subsidised hire. Total sum £3,224.

The implications for the **Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025** will need to be ratified at the Full Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February due to the schedule of meetings.

## **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – Covered in specific project reports.
- b) Biodiversity – Covered in specific project reports.
- c) Crime & Disorder – Covered in specific project reports.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency - Covered in specific project reports.

## **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.

All the Council's Committees receive financial reports to conduct its checks and balances and consideration is given to budgets and funding availability when agreeing expenditure.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

The benefits of these items should be considered at the time of recommendation.

## **Financial implications**

The report forms part of the Council's mechanisms for budgetary control. Specific financial implications are detailed.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider agreeing the recommendations of the spending committees as detailed above.