

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 27 January 2020
Title: Grants and Subsidised Lettings
Contact Officer: Democratic Services Officer – Nicky Cayley

BACKGROUND

The current budget for the 2019-20 budget cycle stands at £6, 160.300.

The current budget for subsidised lettings for 2019 -20 stands at £1, 300.00.

APPLICATIONS

The following application has been received:-

Extinction Rebellion, Witney – have requested £500 for hire of meeting space and subsistence expenses for members with little money and printing materials.

Whilst XR describes itself as “beyond politics”, XR Oxford also lists itself as a political organisation on Facebook which members may feel excludes its eligibility as a grant recipient under the Town Council’s Grant Policy:-

4. Exclusions

The Town Council will not fund the following: -

[...]

4.2 An application that aims to support or promote the religious/political beliefs/interests of an individual or organisation. Applications must demonstrate that the project will be of benefit to the wider community. However, this does not necessarily exclude activities on the premises of or organised by a particular religious/faith group or political party.

The grant policy does not permit “an application where the sole aim is to [...] distribute money to others, whether they be individuals or organisations” which would therefore exclude granting money towards subsistence expenses for members.

On this basis, the Committee may like to consider a grant with the explicit purpose of subsidised hire at Burwell Hall, excluding money towards other activities. This could cover more than one hire.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you letter for grants have been received from Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire and Volunteer Link-Up.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Extinction Rebellion Witney have used Burwell Hall as its meeting place at a cost of £35.91 per session and have expressed a wish to move to the Gallery Room in the Corn Exchange at a cost of £41.43.

Three free/subsidised hires of Burwell Hall would be £107.73 or three free/subsidised hires of the Corn Exchange's Gallery Room would be a cost of £124.29

RECOMMENDATIONS

Member are invited to note the report and consider the request for grant support from Extinction Rebellion, Witney.