

## **POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday 13 July 2020

**Title:** Grants and Subsidised Lettings

**Contact Officer:** Democratic Services Officer – Nichola Cayley

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### **Background**

The current budget for 2020-21 budget cycle is £15,000 (£5,000 is carried over from last year's budget).

The current budget for subsidised lettings for 2020-21 is £1,800.

### **Applications**

The following applications have been received:

Witney Wonderland (Joss Searchlight) – has requested £485.00 to cover the hire of the Corn Exchange for their opening evening;

Rotary Club of Witney – has requested £500.00 to support a Dragons' Den style event for local charities/community organisations/schools to be held in the Corn Exchange in October. Any grant given by the Town Council may be used directly as "prize money" for successful pitches;

Witney Town Band – has requested its' annual grant of £500.00. This money is ringfenced within the £15, 000.00 budget.

Witney Fairtrade Area Group – has requested £85.00 for subsidised hire of the Corn Exchange for a talk on Fair Trade;

Witney Buttercross Scouts Group – has requested £10, 000 but the maximum grant available is £500.00. The grant would go towards the Stable Barn project;

Witney Music Society – has requested £50.00 towards artists' fees;

The Mayor of Witney – has requested £325.00 towards 2 hires of the Corn Exchange for fundraising events for her charities – Guideposts, Homestart and Got2B.

For information both Witney Wonderland (Joss Search Light) and Rotary Club are at this stage intending to go ahead with the events planned for the Corn Exchange in October and November respectively. If Covid-19 regulations prevent this then the Town Council would retain the funds in its Subsidised Lettings budget in relation to Winter Wonderland. The Town Council should also look to reclaim any money from Rotary if its event cannot go ahead, as the money will be used to support the event in general and may be used a prize money.

Witney Town Band have applied for their annual grant – the band normally plays for the Town Council at 3 events in return. The Secretary specified in an email *“I have been asked to make it clear that the money, if granted, will be returned should the season not take place.”*

### **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.

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 these grants are awarded under.

### **Financial implications**

If all grants were awarded the grant fund would stand at £ 13,450 and the subsidised letting budget would stand at £905.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note this report and consider the requests for funding as detailed in this report and the attached grant applications.

Members are also asked to consider if they wish to specify that in relation to Rotary Club and Witney Town Band, any grant must be repaid in full if events are not able to go ahead due to the Covid-19 pandemic.