

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 27 September 2021

Title: Grants & Subsidised Lettings

Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer - Tina Jardine

Background

The budget for general grants (4100/407) for the new financial year, 2021-22, budget cycle is £10,000.

The budget for subsidised lettings (4110/407) for the new financial year, 2021-22, budget cycle is £1,800.

Current Situation

The following applications for discretionary grants have been received: -

Witney Parkrun

The request is for £500.00 to purchase an automated, external defibrillator (AED) dedicated for the Witney 5k Parkrun event. The average price is circa £1,000 including replacement pads and rucksack. (Note: Woodgreen Junior Parkrun already has a dedicated AED).

Witney Day Centre

The request is for a £3,000.00 start-up amount towards building a shed pergola and wood store as well as progressing to garden seating and community garden of the Day Centre.

Witney Mills Cricket Club

The request is for a £2,700.00 contribution towards the purchase of a new outfield mower to replace the existing mower which cannot be repaired. The amount is for 25% of the identified cost.

St Mary's, Cogges

The request is for £2,000 towards a Community Garden.

Buttercross Theatre Productions

Referred from the Stronger Communities Committee on 20th September 2021, the request is for funds towards Camera equipment for the film module where the students learn not just

how to act for Film & TV but also to learn how to direct and use the equipment to make films. Amount to be confirmed ahead of the meeting.

Witney Town Band

The Council has received a request from Witney Town Band to draw upon the annually budgeted £500 allocated for their use, for which the Council receives attendance at three civic events during the year (4100/407).

Members should note the Witney Music Festival planned for 2021 has been cancelled and the organisers hope to stage an event at The Leys in 2022.

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

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- The budget for discretionary grants (4100/407) for the financial year currently stands at £8,250.69*
- The Council brought funds forward from the budget line 4100/407 in 2020/21 which were allocated to the Witney Carnival (£2,600) and Witney Music Festival (£9,750) by way of previous resolutions. Both these events have since been cancelled in the current year.

*includes £300 pledged to Baby-bonding Sessions, once referred from Home-Start Oxford.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The requests for funding as detailed in this report and the attached grant applications.
2. *Following recommendation from the Stronger Communities Committee on 20th September 2021*, that the sum of £9,750 returned to the discretionary grants budget (4100/407) following the cancellation of the Witney Music Festival be allocated to the Youth Services Grant budget for the current year.