

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Date: Monday, 28th March 2022
Title: Grants & Subsidised Lettings
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk – Adam Clapton

Background

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

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

Discretionary Grant Applications

The following applications for discretionary grants have been received: -

1. The Rotary Club of Witney

A request for £500 towards the Witney Colour Run 2022 which will be held on Sunday 29th May. The Council awarded the same amount for last year's event.

2. Windrush Radio

A request for £2000 towards outside broadcasting equipment.

3. Anchora

Please see the Subsidised Letting request below.

Members should note that the application from The Rotary Club of Witney is for an event in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Subsidised Letting Applications

The following applications for subsidised letting of the Councils premises have been received: -

1. Anchora

A request for £215.00 to hold a fundraising event at the Corn Exchange on Saturday 9th July. Free use for this event would mean that all profits could go towards helping struggling local families. Please see application for the aims of the charity and further information.

The form does also request an additional grant to support the charity's work.

2. Witney Swifts Cricket Club

A retrospective request of £69.50 for subsidised letting at West Witney Sports Ground on 22nd August 2021. This request was at the Council's invitation as the match held on this day was for a Special President's Cup match.

3. Witney Photo Group

A request of £154.50 for subsidised letting at the Corn Exchange on 25th June 2022 for a photographic exhibition of members' work.

Members should note that the applications from Anchora and Witney Photo Group are for events in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Additional Financial Assistance Requests

1. Oxfordshire Play Association

Will be providing a Play Day at Burwell Recreation Ground on 1st June 2022 (to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee Commemorations). The event will be going ahead so officers will release the £1,000 budgeted towards this event.

2. Witney Carnival Committee

A request for £1,000 towards the Witney Carnival 2022. This is in addition to the £1,100 already budgeted towards toilets and free use of the Leys. A request for £4,000 was made earlier in the financial year but the Carnival Committee now feels that they could manage with a lesser grant from the Town Council.

3. Witney Music Festival

At the Stronger Communities Committee meeting held on 21st March, members received a request from the festival organisers to agree a future partnership with the Town Council to hold an annual event on the Leys. This would involve funding £10,000 so the event could run and then receiving the funds back (with a 10% return) after the event.

Environmental impact

There would be no environmental impact if these requests were granted.

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 £4,036.69
- The remaining budget for subsidised lettings is £1,472.50
- Members should decide whether to award any grants and subsidised lettings from the new financial year's budget.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note this report and;

1. Consider the requests for funding as detailed in this report and the attached discretionary grant/subsidised letting applications,
2. Note the payment of £1,000 to Oxfordshire Play Association,
3. Consider the request for an additional £1,000 from the Witney Carnival Committee,
4. Consider the request for £10,000 (to be paid back) by Witney Music Festival.