

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

12 JUNE 2017

GRANT APPLICATIONS 2017/18

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

At the meeting of Wisbech Town Council on 25 January 2017 the Budget for 2017/18 and the Precept for that year were set (minute 125/16 refers). In setting the Budget and Precept, the council approved in full the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee (minute R12/16 refers).

The total budget for 2017/18 includes a sum of £5,250 (i.e. the same level as in 2015/16 and 2016/17) for small grants and £37,000 (an increase by £15,000 of the level in 2016/17) for special grants. The increase in the allocation for special grants was to provide additional funding to the Wisbech and Fenland Museum.

SMALL GRANTS

At its meeting on 10 April 2017 (minute R16/16 refers) this committee allocated £3,002.80 of its 2017/18 budget for small grants; this means that £2,247.20 is still available for allocation in the current financial year.

At part (7) of minute R16/16 this committee decided to invite the Wisbech Arles Twining Club to submit a small grants application for funding in respect of 2017's Arles Festival event (in 2016 the event was funded from an allocation of £1,000 within Wisbech Town Council's Community Events and Festivals budget for 2016/17).

Since 10 April 2017 the council has received two further applications for funding from the small grants "pot". These are set out below.

	Organisation	Purpose of grant	Amount requested
1.	Wisbech Arles Twining Club	Contribution towards the cost of running this event on 16 July 2017	£750 (out of a total project cost of £1,240)
2.	The Brinks Festival	Contribution towards the cost of holding a Brinks Colour Run	£1,000 (out of a total project cost of £3,848)
	TOTAL		£1,750

The council's guidance to applicants for grant funding states that Wisbech Town Council will look at the following issues when assessing funding requests: contribution to social, environmental, economic wellbeing, community involvement and activities, social inclusion,

any previous funding, purpose of the organisation and the nature of the assistance requested.

Copies of both application forms received by the council were circulated to members of the Policy and Resources Committee in advance of the meeting.

Recommendation

That members determine these two small grant applications.

SPECIAL GRANTS

At its meeting on 10 April 2017(minute R16/16 refers) this committee allocated £36,700 of the £37,000 for special grants in the financial year 2017/18; this leaves an unallocated balance of £300.

Recommendation

That members note the current situation regarding the expenditure on this budget.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

An application for financial assistance has been received by Wisbech Town Council from St Peter and St Paul's Church PCC towards the cost of repair works to the surface of the car park that both serves the Church Hall and provides a pedestrian route between the public car park (owned by Fenland District Council) and the church gardens.

The PCC is asking Wisbech Town Council to consider meeting 50% of the cost of the works, which are estimated at £6,457.82 (i.e. £5,381.52 plus VAT). Consequently, the level of financial assistance being sought from Wisbech Town Council is £3,228.00.

The only "financial assistance" budgets operated by Wisbech Town Council are the annual small grants and special grants budgets. If the small grants applications set out in this report are approved by this committee (in full), the "financial assistance" monies available for the remainder of the financial year 2017/18 would total £797.20 (made up of £497.20 balance on the small grants budget and £300 on the special grants budget).

A copy of the letter of application was circulated to members of the Policy and Resources Committee in advance of the meeting.

Recommendation

That members consider the application for financial assistance submitted by the St Peter and St Paul's Church PCC.

Report author: Terry Jordan, Clerk to Wisbech Town Council