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Report To: Full Council Date: 29 April 2024

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Grants

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## 1. West Swindon Parish Council Grants

- 1.1 At the Full Council meeting in March, a new Grant Awarding Policy was adopted. The policy set deadlines for grant applications (over £250) for April and September. The total grants budget for 2024 is £10,000. Key to note is that the Parish Council should only grant fund receipted expenditure, and cannot fund expenditure that has occurred prior to the grant being approved.

For the April round, the following grant applications have been received:

### ***Grant Applications:***

#### 1.2 **Best – Be a Better You**

The organisation has applied for funding to provide ten sessions for up to 40 children at Freshbrook Community Centre during the school holidays. A copy of the grant application is attached as Appendix A. This equates to £120 per hour per session. The organisation delivers sessions for many Parish Councils across the Borough. As there is no deposit or tie in, it is possible that not all places are taken up on the day.

#### Advisory note:

- Whilst the activity can be promoted for local West Swindon children, it is unlikely that it can be restricted specifically to a West Swindon address.
- It is possible that attendees are repeat attendees and therefore it is unlikely to reach large numbers of children.
- The provision of one off activity is very costly and does not link to a longer term strategy/provision or build relationships and networks

#### Recommendation:

The Parish Council considers the value of funding sessions for the Summer holidays that are one off with an external provider. Funding could be targeted towards a local club/organisation to support their activities instead. If minded to, the Council could book up to six sessions in total and target marketing towards families in Freshbrook and Grange Park. Cost for six sessions £1920

#### 1.3 **Peatmoor Angling Club**

Peatmoor Angling club have submitted a grant application, a copy is attached as Appendix B. The Angling Club are seeking funding for an outboard motor, batteries and maintenance equipment to support their management of the lake. This is for the collection and removal of waste, litter and overgrown vegetation. The total is £633.68

Advisory note:

The Parish Council supports the Club through the collection of waste deposited by club volunteers. Last year, the Club removed large amounts of vegetation and were advised this was outside of their remit which is to remove vegetation from fishing platforms only.

**Recommendation:**

The Parish Council could support the Angling Club continue their maintenance of the lake and approve the grant.

1.4 **Toothill Church**

Toothill Church has contacted the Parish Council to seek a contribution to their Welcome Space. This is a free weekly session which offers soup and refreshments to anyone seeking a warm and safe space. The original request was for a contribution to utility costs however this is very difficult to disaggregate to the Welcome space, modified details are attached as Appendix C. The amount requested is c. £500.

Advisory note:

The Parish Council cannot fund anything that would constitute direct support of religious buildings or religious activity. The funding for the Welcome space would need to be accounted for that activity only. The Council should be aware that other West Swindon churches also deliver welcome spaces as part of their community offer.

**Recommendation:**

That the Council considers a small grant to cover refreshment costs for the Welcome space.

2. **Financial Implications**

The Council has a grants budget of £10,000 alongside the provision of the Clean and Green reserve for small grants. In previous years, the Council has allocated grant funding primarily to local youth projects. These organisations have not applied in the April round but may apply again in the September round. There are sufficient funds available to award grants to the applicants in this round.

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