

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Item: 7

Report to: Finance and Audit Committee

Date: 11th December 2024

Subject: Grants and Donations

Summary: The committee is asked to consider paying out various grants to relevant organisations.

1. Background and objective

- 1.1 Bexhill-On-Sea Town Council includes in its budget a sum of money in order to award grants to voluntary organisations and community groups that provide benefits for the residents of Bexhill-on Sea using the power provided by the Local Government Act 1972 s137.
- 1.2 One application has been received since the last round to be considered by the committee.
- 1.3 Applications have been received to review and decide.
- 1.4 Details of previous grants paid out to be noted by the committee.

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to review the applications and consider payment of the grants.
- 2.2 The first table below shows a summary of checks made by the Responsible Financial Officer of the applications which shows if the council's criteria has been met or not.
- 2.3 The second table shows payments made in October to previous organisations so a decision can be made if more than one application is made in a calendar year. There is no restriction to the number of times an organisation may apply for grant funding, however, the history of previous applications will be considered in the decision-making process. Priority will be given to first time applicants who fulfil the criteria.

Table One:

| Organisation | Amount Required | Criteria Met |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| ESSPA | £8,500. <i>Grants of up to £10,000 are to be considered in January, May and September of each year.</i> | ESSPA is a non-profit organisation based in Bexhill-on-Sea. This grant is to enable the organisation to hire the De La Warr Pavilion for an upcoming performance of The Wizard of Oz, set to take place in April 2025. 90% of ESSPA members are children living in Bexhill-on-Sea. A bank account is held. <i>No constitution or set up of rules which govern their operation, including what happens to funds if they cease to operate has been provided, and no copy of a safeguarding policy has been provided for working with children.</i> THIS WILL BE PRESENTED TO JANUARY'S MEETING AS PER THE POLICY. |
| Bexhill Wild CIC | £480. | Bexhill Wild CIC is a Community Interest Company based in Bexhill-on-Sea. This grant will enable the organisation to hire their regular meeting venue. They host two meetings a month, one walk and one talk to educate members of the public on conservation and local wildlife, as well as provide an opportunity to socialise with like-minded people. 100% of the nature club's members are Bexhill-on-Sea based. A bank account is held. <i>No constitution or set up of rules which govern their operation, including what happens to funds if they cease to operate has been provided. One previous grant has been given for £1,000 – ringfenced towards the Sidley Woods project.</i> |
| Bexhill Art Society | £2,303.00 <i>Grants of up to £10,000 are to be considered in January, May and September of each year.</i> | The Bexhill Art Society is a membership society that aims to stimulate interest in visual arts through lectures, demonstrations and workshops. The grant is to cover the cost of the annual art exhibition at the De La Warr Pavilion. THIS WILL BE PRESENTED TO JANUARY'S MEETING AS PER THE POLICY. |

Table Two:

| Organisation | Amount Required | Criteria Met |
|---------------------|-----------------|---|
| Jesus loves Bexhill | £500 | Community Group, Bexhill-on-Sea based, Bank Account held, the grant is for Hi Vis Tabards |

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| | | 20X£25, Bexhill Info Cards and Strong Bin Bags for litter picking, Memorandum & Articles of Association held. |
| The Pelham CIO (Running Space, Championing Life, Beating Suicide project) | £446 | CIO, Bexhill-on-Sea based, Bank Account held, the grant is for a Finish Line Banner at the 24-hour relay in Sidley, constitution held. |
| Bexhill Senior Citizens Club | £500 | Bexhill-on-Sea Based, Bank Account held, the grant is for wooden concertina doors between the tea lounge and the hall which have been deteriorating for a while and now after numerous repairs, finally need replacing, constitution held. |
| Community Supporters | £5,500 | Bexhill-on-Sea Based, Bank Account held, the grant is for reinforcing a ramp to the beach for persons with mobility issues, constitution held. |

Current budget position:

Annual Budget: £42,000
Spent to date: £29,160
Left to spend: £12,840

3. Recommendation

- a) The committee is to review the Bexhill Wild CIC application listed in Table One and decide whether to award the grant.
- b) To note any grants paid out in October, listed in Table Two.