

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Item: 7

Report to: Finance and Audit Committee

Date: 15th January 2025

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 There are three applications has been received since the last round to be considered by the committee. All of these are considered “large applications” as per the current policy.
- 1.3 Applications have been received to review and decide.

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
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ESSPA	£8,500	<p>ESSPA is a non-profit organisation based in Bexhill-on-Sea. They hold monthly meetings to stimulate interest in the arts.</p> <p>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.</p>
Bexhill Senior Citizens Club	£10,000	<p>Bexhill Senior Citizens Club is a volunteer-run charity providing a safe, comfortable, warm space for the senior citizens living in Bexhill-on-Sea and surrounding areas to meet and socialise. Bank account and accounts have been provided.</p> <p>The grant is to be put towards the approximate £50,000 cost of cladding the building due to severe damp problems.</p> <p>Previous grants have been approved for £500 for new doors in 2024 and £1000 towards a new hall floor in 2022.</p>
Bexhill Art Society	£2,303.00	<p>The Bexhill Art Society is a membership society that aims to stimulate interest in visual arts through lectures, demonstrations and workshops. The treasurers report, accounts and De La Warr Pavilion agreement and insurance have been provided.</p> <p>The grant is to cover the cost of the annual art exhibition at the De La Warr Pavilion.</p>

Current budget position:

Annual Budget: £42,000

Spent to date: £29,640

Left to spend: £12,360

3. Recommendation

- a) The committee is to review the Grants listed in Table One and decide whether to award the grant.
- b) The committee is to note that there are two more meetings that small grants can be considered at (February, March) before the budget resets to £42,000. The total of these three large grants exceeds the amount left to spend for this financial year.