

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Item: 9 (a) **APPENDIX H**

Report to: Finance and Audit Committee

Date: 12th March 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 The total Local Government Act 1972 s137 limit for 2024/25 is £10.81 which would equate to approximately £385,000 limit for grants and donations for this financial year. The Town Council has agreed a budget of £42,000 for grants and donations.
- 1.3 Two applications have been received to review and decide within the policy. Three applications for over £1000 have been received for which the council is asked to consider next steps.

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 year to date 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	Criteria Met
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	Required	
Little Common Methodist Church	£4,779.18	Little Common Methodist Church is a venue for several community groups, including the Connections Café, run on behalf of East Sussex County Council, for people with dementia, their loved ones and carers – Many of which have mobility issues and are wheelchair users. The grant is to replace their entrance with accessible doors which will reduce the risk of trips and falls and be more accessible for wheelchair users.
Bexhill Festival of Music	£1,800	Bexhill Festival of Music is a registered charity that runs an annual festival in June where live, local music is played around the town. This grant will replace the Concessionary Grant from Rother District Council with a breakdown of £1,200 towards Last Night of the Bexhill Proms and £600 towards the Bexhill Schools Big Sing.
Bexhill Downs Ladies Group	£500	Ladies group that meets for friendship and fun activities. This grant will go towards the Christmas Lunch which is a total cost of £1,100
Sidley Cricket Club	£500	Community Cricket Club run by volunteers. This grant is towards increasing their car park which is a total cost of £5,000
By The Coast	£6494	A community event to be held at the De La Warr Pavilion. Application from an individual that also has a separate company called Bexfest. No accounts provided.

Table Two

Bexhill Choral Society	350.00
Bexhill Youth and Community Association	3,000.00
Hastings Sinfonia Orchestra	1,000.00
Mindful Oak Sussex CIC	510.00
St Peters Community Centre	1,854.00
Sparc PM Ltd	500.00
Bexhill Carnival	5,000.00
White Label Events	5,000.00
Bexhill in Bloom	5,000.00
Jesus Loves Bexhill	500.00
The Pelham CIO	446.00
Bexhill Senior Citizen Club	500.00

Community Supporters	5,500.00
Bexhill Wild CIC	480.00
ESSPA	2,000.00
Bexhill Arts Society	2,000.00
Bexhill Cricket Club	500.00

Current budget position:

Annual Budget: £42,000

Spent to date: £34,140

Left to spend: £7,860

- 2.4 The council has set a policy that all grants applied for in excess of £1,000 up to £10,000 shall be considered in the months of January, May and September. The council is asked to consider how it wishes to proceed as the deferment of these applications to May could result in issues for the applicants.
- 2.5 The total of grants applied for is £14,073.18. The total available funding is £7860.00
- 2.6 The total of grants applied for that fits the criteria for this month is £1000. This would leave £6,860 unspent which will be transferred to general reserves as of 1st April 2025.

3 Recommendation

- a) The committee is to review the Grants listed in Table One and decide whether to award the grant.