

CS34 **Statements and Questions from the Public**

None.

CS35 **Minutes**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2019.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 20th August 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CS36 **Matters Arising**

The Committee considered the deferred Grant Application from the 20th August meeting for Autism Family Support Oxfordshire. The committee considered the additional information provided by the organisation and it was agreed and **resolved** to award a grant of £500 to the organisation.

Cllr Jim Halliday asked if there was an update on what the council was planning to do to mark VE day and VJ day next year. It was confirmed that there were no final plans at this point, but that funds had been set aside for this purpose and that the Summer Events committee would be making plans to commemorate these occasions.

CS37 **Grant Applications**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk relating to the above.

Community Grants Fund

Following discussion regarding the various applications it was **resolved** that the grant applications be determined as follows:

	Name of Applicant	Purpose of grant, as summarised in the grant application	Grant awarded
1	Abbey Brass Band	Towards the cost of Equipment.	£1,000

2	ATOM Festival of Technology	Towards the cost of the 2020 ATOM Festival	£1,000
3	Be Free Young Carers	To continue the provision of expert practical and emotional support to young carers in Abingdon	The application was in the sum of £7,000. Consequently it was considered that this could qualify for a grant from the larger Community Fund and the application was referred application to the Finance & General Purposes accordingly
4	Dance Creative	Towards the cost of the 'Dance for life Abingdon' project which is a creative health project for older people living in Abingdon.	£200
5	My Life My Choice	Venue Hire and transport costs for group meetings	£900
6	Oxford Association for the Blind	Towards the costs of the OAB's dedicated telephone and email helpline for people with sight loss.	£1,000

Note that the above grants were made in pursuance of the Council's powers, as noted in column one, as follows (resolved accordingly):

- (a) Local Government Act 1972, section 145;
- (b) Local Government Act 1972, section 137;
- (c) Local Government and Rating Act 1997, part III, section 31;
- (d) Local Government Act 1972, section 144;
- (e) Local Government Act 1972, section 142 (2A);
- (f) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19;
- (g) Local Government Act 1972, section 133;
- (h) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19.

It was agreed and **resolved** that a new section would be added to the existing grant application forms that would include the Council's Vision and Key Objectives and would ask the applicant how their application supported these.

Grant applications in relation to funds held by the former Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust (JET)

The Committee considered three grant applications under the former Joint Environmental Trust.

The Community Services Committee **recommended approval** of three grants to be funded from the funds from the former Joint Environmental Trust:

1. St Nicolas' Church Tower, for "urgent repairs to the church tower to preserve its historic fabric and enable the bells to ring out once more. The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and were content that they had the legal powers any grants to award grants to churches/ religious bodies. Any grants awarded by the Council would be for projects to the benefit of the community rather than promoting a particular religion. It was **recommended to the Town Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee** that a grant in the sum of £2,000 be approved. The power to award the grant would be under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. Abingdon War Memorial. This is an application from the Town Council for grant funding to undertake repairs and replacement of certain items. The request to grant fund 50% of the costs up to a maximum grant of £11,000 was **recommended to the Town Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee** for approval. The power to award the grant would be under the War Memorials Act 1923.
3. The Albert Memorial (Abingdon) Trust. This project is to undertake repairs to the memorial following its periodic inspection. The Committee **recommended to the Town Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee** grant aid for any expenditure in excess of £24,500 subject to a maximum grant award of £5,000. The power to award the grant would be under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was noted that in accordance with the terms of the transfer of the funds of the former Abingdon JET District Councillors would be consulted on this matter. Following their further consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee the recommendations would then be determined by the

Town Council as the funds of the former Joint Environmental Trust required release of funds held in earmarked reserves.

Grant Application by the Friends of Abingdon Building Trust

The Committee received and considered the application from the Friends of Abingdon Building Trust in relation to the “Abingdon Abbey Buildings Resilient Heritage Project” by way of letter dated 3rd December 2019 from Bryan Brown, the Chairman of the Trust. Members are considered the Executive Summary (6th February 2019) and the Outline Activity Plan with outcomes description (24th September 2019).

The grant requested was for Round 1 NLHF (National Lottery Heritage Fund) works consisting of “surveys, ecology audit, initial archaeology, detailed design drawings, specifications and tendering and obtaining planning permission from the local planning authority and Historic England, interpretation, business and VAT planning and project management.” The total cost of works at this stage amounted to £337,405. The sum requested from the Town Council amounted to £25,000. The grant application suggested that this could be funded from either the funds in relation to the Joint Environmental Trust (JET) or Community Infrastructure Levy or a combination of both.

Joint Environmental Trust: The Committee considered that the application did not qualify for funding in relation to the former Abingdon JET funds (reserve 325) but would qualify for funding from the Town Council only JET funds, for which there is a sum within the earmarked reserve amounting to £10,000 (reserve 328). The Community Services Committee **recommended to the Town Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee** that £10,000 be allocated towards the project from the Town Council only JET funds. Any grant would be awarded in accordance with powers under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Community Infrastructure Levy:

It was noted that the application for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was a matter for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider.

CS38 **Financial Report**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer/ RFO in relation to the above, as circulated with the agenda.

Management Accounts

It was **resolved** that the committee approve the management accounts for the period 1st April to 30th September 2019.

Projected year end income and expenditure

The projected year end outturn was **noted**.

Estimates 2020-21

The Committee then considered the draft budget for 2020-21.

Cllr Jim Halliday asked what the earmarked reserve for Fun in the Park was for. The Treasurer/ RFO reported this was accumulated net underspend against budget from previous years.

The Committee asked the officers to produce an estimate on staff time and costings for Fun and Music in the Park for the next meeting.

There was a discussion around the current market tolls and whether or not to increase these. There was a suggestion of using pricing as an incentive to reduce the use of single use plastic, with cheaper rates being offered to stalls not using single use plastic.

It was noted that for historic reasons the tolls in relation to the Farmers' market were lower than for the Monday market. It was agreed that the officers would conduct a survey of market tolls in neighbouring towns and report to this to the Finance and General Purposes, who would then consider market tolls for 2020-21.

There was a discussion regarding current market management and the Town Clerk stated that if The Council were to start taking a more pro-active role in the Markets it would need to consider the resource implications in relation to staff time.

After full discussion it was agreed to make the following **recommendations** to the Finance and General Purposes Committee concerning the 2020 / 2021 budget estimates:

- Line 4251/ 413 Community Grants – increase from £18,000 to £20,000 with a priority on grants which assist in meeting the Council's Vision and Key Objectives.

- Line 215/4871 Town centre initiatives reduce budget from £5,838 to £2,000.
- Line 307/4122 Market reinvestment reduce budget from £600 to £0 as
- Line 307/1004 Increase income budget from £24,827 to £28,000.

The draft estimates for 2020/21, considering the above recommendations were:

Proposed Expenditure	£105,164
Proposed Income	£55,252
Next Expenditure	£49,912

It was **recommended** that the net expenditure budget for the Committee for 2020/21 be set at £49,912 (2019/20 - £53,006, a reduction of £3,094).

Resolved: the report of the Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer, be approved.

CS39 **Communications Update**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Administrative Assistant in relation to the above.

Resolved: the report of the Administrative Assistant be approved.

CS40 **Environmental implications**

The Committee had considered environmental implications in relation to the matters discussed at the meeting. It agreed to place emphasis on the environmental implications of projects in considering future grant applications.

CS41 **Publicity**

It was agreed and **resolved** that there would be an article in the next Town Crier magazine to advertise the markets in Abingdon.

CS42 **Dates of next meeting**

The final scheduled meeting of the 2019/20 municipal year was due to take place on Tuesday 11th February 2020.

Note that the first meeting of 2020/21 municipal year is due to take place on 19th May 2020.

CS43 **Exclusion of the public, including the press**

The Chair proposed and it **resolved**

That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CS44 **Legal powers in relation to grants**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above.

Members concurred with the recommendation that the Town Council had powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to the grant under consideration.

Resolved: to approve the report.

CS45 **Communications Update**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Administrative Assistant in relation to the above.

Resolved: to approve the report.

CS46 **Fees and charges**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above. Consideration of the report was deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved: to approve the report.

The meeting rose at 10.01pm.

Signed.....