

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community committee
Meeting date	3 September 2023
Report author	Andy Crick
Agenda item	6b

Report on grants awarded in 2023-24

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To receive and note reports from some of the organisations awarded a grant in 2023-24.

2. **Summary**

- 2.1 Organisations listed in section 6 received grants from the town council and were asked to provide evidence of how the grants were spent. Information has been supplied in various formats and can be viewed as attachments, images or in the appendix below.

3. **Action required**

- 3.1 The committee is asked to note this information.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

- 4.1 This report relates to key objective 3: 'To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.'

5. **Background**

- 5.1 The town council awards grants to community groups each financial year from a fund of £30,000. These awards have not always followed up with successful applicants to confirm how the money has been spent. This has been raised as an issue by the town council's auditor so from 2023 all applicants have been asked to report on how the grant they received was spent.
- 5.2 Grant recipients were emailed in July 2024 to request further information and a number of responses were received. These responses are set out in the attachments, images and appendix.
- 5.3 Grant recipients who have not yet responded will be contacted again to ensure that the council can review how each grant has been used. If an organisation does not respond, this will be noted for any future applications.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 Information has been provided from the following groups and organisations:

Applicant and grant purpose	Minute reference	Grant applied for	Grant awarded	Information provided
Abingdon Music Centre Trust	C8/23	£515	£515	Report
Be Free Young Carers	C71/23	£3,000	£3,000	Report
Clean Slate	C25/23	£500	£500	Report
Abingdon Joint Schools Carnegie Trust	C83/23	£550	£450	Appendix and attached images
Home Start Southern Oxfordshire	C8/23	£2,000	£2,000	Report
Abingdon Street Pastors	C71/23	£2,000	£2,000	Appendix
Thomas Reade School	C25/23	£4,000	£500	Report
Abingdon Twinning Society	C71/23	£300	£300	Appendix
Abingdon Tennis Club	C83/23	£5,000	£1,000	Appendix and attached images
Oxfordshire Play Association	C83/23	£1,000	£1,000	Report
Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue	C8/23	£1,055.98	£300	Attached image

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 None

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 This report will inform future grant applications.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

10.1 List and link as hyperlinks

Andy Crick
Democratic Services Officer
23 August 2024

APPENDIX

Abingdon Joint Schools Carnegie Trust

I applied for the grant on behalf of the Abingdon Joint Schools Carnegie Group, of which I am a member. The grant we received was used to help fund the events we run during our Carnegie Shadowing Program, which is open to students in years 7 and 8. The Carnegie Shadowing Program champions the love of reading across the schools involved, develops literacy and oracy skills, encourages the expression and sharing of ideas, and promotes empathy and collaboration across the community.

We spent the grant money on various things to enrich our events, including book tokens and books for our Quiz and Forum prizes, souvenir pens for all participants, a local poet (Vanessa Lampert) who held a workshop for the students, and refreshments for the Welcome Tea. I've included a few photos which show some of our amazing events.

Abingdon Street Pastors

We are very grateful to Abingdon Town Council for the funding of £2000 that was awarded to Abingdon Street Pastors for 2024 to help support our running costs.

This grant has helped towards funding our admin and staff costs, which total about £6000 a year, as well as training and meeting expenses (trainer and venue costs), totalling about £500 pa, and our outlay for consumables (lollies, water, flipflops, business cards, etc.) needed in our work on the streets of Abingdon, about £500 pa.

For example, we held a refresher training session in April 2024 entitled 'Roles and Responsibilities', which was attended by about 20 people from other Street Pastor groups - Reading, Wantage, Abingdon, Wallingford, Yeovil. See attached a feedback report. The costs for this training session alone were about £250 and Abingdon footed the whole bill. We are planning further training come the autumn.

The night-time economy in Abingdon has been quieter going into 2024 (mirroring the pre-Christmas lull in 2023) with less people out and about and frequenting night-time venues with some being empty or having low numbers. The only venues that seem to have been busy are those that have function rooms, like the Crown & Thistle. However, we feel to help just one person per shift is worthwhile. And so many people have got to know the pastors and are pleased to see them when they are out on the street.

Our numbers of pastors has also declined as many of our pastors reach an age when being out on the street late at night is becoming more problematic from the point of view of health issues. We have tried recruiting but in the current climate very few people are up for volunteering, something that is mirrored in many charities and other volunteer organisations. However, despite this we are still able to put out two shifts a month on the first and third Saturdays. Interestingly, a clip about Street Pastors in Coventry was aired on TV on Morning Live, so we are going to use this to try and attract further volunteers/pastors.

Although our numbers have gone down and the streets are quieter than previously, this does not reduce our running costs significantly, and costs for consumables are rising in the current

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economic climate. Abingdon Street Pastors cannot continue to function if we do not continue to receive funding from those public organisations that sought its inception in Abingdon back in 2011.

Abingdon Twinning Society

Many thanks for your email requesting a report on the way the Abingdon Church Twinning Group has spent the very generous £300 grant from the Town Council, received on the 23rd of December 2023.

This grant was spent on a visit from ladies from our twin town of Shongau in Germany, which took place from the 4th to the 8th of April 2024.

One of our visitors was in a wheelchair. We decided to hire a Kit Mobility Taxi to pick up the group from Heathrow and bring them to Abingdon. The cost of the taxi was £176.50. The visitors contributed to this cost, leaving a balance of £76.50, paid for by the committee.

The committee also paid for the following:

- **Thursday** pm: welcome with tea/drinks, cake, hot cross buns, napkins, etc. at 35 Ock Street @ £30
- **Friday** am: refreshments during morning talk at All Saints church @ £11
- **Saturday**: lunch at Costa Coffee at £66 and a tea break at Pablo Lounge at £55
- **Sunday**: farewell buffet at St. Michaels Church with guests and invited clergy: £65

This comes to a total of £303.50

Many thanks once again for awarding us the £300 grant, and helping us to organise a very successful visit, strengthening the ties with our Christian friends in Shongau!