

Report of the Portfolio holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

GRANT AID REQUESTS FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant assistance in accordance with the protocol for the consideration of grant aid to parish and town councils.

2. Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the requests and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

A number of grant aid requests have been received from parish and town councils for consideration (including some previously submitted to Finance and Resources Committee in 2021/22):

- A request from Awsworth Parish Council of up to £500 towards the cost of its local Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- The re-submission of a request from Nuthall Parish Council for funding of up to £2,590 towards the purchase of two new outdoor defibrillators to be installed in the 'Horsendale' and 'Mornington' areas of the parish (previously considered by Committee on 7 October 2021).
- The re-submission of three outstanding grant aid requests from Kimberley Town Council, previously considered by Committee on 6 January 2022:
 - A grant of up to £6,700 towards the full cost of its recent Christmas lights switch-on event.
 - A grant of up to £1,005 towards the cost of the electricity supply for the defibrillator to be situated on Cliffe Boulevard in Kimberley.
 - A grant of up to £6,700 towards the cost of disabled access works at the Stag Recreation Ground on Nottingham Road, Kimberley.

Details of the applications are included in appendix 1. The agreed protocol for assessing grant aid to parish and town councils is provided in appendix 2 with the grants previously awarded under this scheme listed in appendix 3.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

If Members wished to support these requests, an award could be made from the £20,000 provision for grants to parish councils included in the 2022/23

revenue budget. No budgetary provision exists for capital grants to parish councils.

The provision of defibrillators in Broxtowe was considered by the Policy and Performance Committee on 1 July 2020. Members resolved that the Council should play a role in the provision of defibrillators by working alongside other organisations, such as parish councils, to ensure communities had access to a defibrillator. There is no provision in the Council's budget for either the purchase or maintenance of defibrillators, whether owned by the Council or other organisations.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is empowered to make grants by virtue of Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line with the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils Protocol will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

6. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

7. Union Comments

There were no comments from UNISON.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Background Papers

Nil.

APPENDIX 1

Revenue and Capital Grants**1. Awsorth Parish Council – Platinum Jubilee Events**

Awsorth Parish Council has submitted a grant aid request towards the cost of local Queen's Platinum Jubilee events.

Awsorth Parish Council has organised events to celebrate the to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On Friday, 3 June 2022, a free 'Jubilee Afternoon Tea' was arranged at the Awsorth Village Hall for around 80 Awsorth residents aged 65 years and over. This included a classic afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes and hot drinks, followed by games and a choir. The feedback was excellent and Awsorth would like offer this to the local community on a more regular basis due to the positive response. This event, which was hosted by volunteers, cost £350 for the sandwiches, refreshments and decorations.

Awsorth Parish Council had also organised a 'Picnic on the Park' event on Sunday, 5 June 2022 at The Lane Recreation Ground in Awsorth. This was planned to be a family fun afternoon filled with a variety of activities for all ages. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather the event was cancelled, much to the disappointment of local residents. In light of the positive feedback, Awsorth were pleased to announced that the event has been re-scheduled for 4 September 2022. This event cost £200 and all of the decorations and sweets will be used for the re-scheduled event. A large handmade Jubilee cake had been donated to sell, but as the event was cancelled, the cake was donated to a local nursing home for its residents and staff.

Awsorth Parish Council had closing reserve balance of £27,133 as at 31 March 2022 (similar to the previous years). The Awsorth annual precept for 2022/23 was £81,641, which was an increase of 3.4% on the previous year's council tax.

2. Nuthall Parish Council – Purchase of a Defibrillator

Nuthall Parish Council had previously submitted a grant aid request for up to £2,590 towards the purchase of two new defibrillators to be installed in the parish areas of 'Horsendale' and 'Mornington'.

This was considered at Finance and Resources Committee on 7 October 2021. The minutes show that "discussions ensued around the facilities provided in locations around the Borough and maintenance of the equipment once installed. Talks had been taking place with East Midlands Ambulance Service where the most incidents had taken place and how comprehensive lifesaving equipment could be installed across the Borough including equipment for diabetic emergencies. Members agreed to defer the grant aid request towards the purchase of two new defibrillators until another Finance and Resources Committee when a detailed programme of proposals of equipment across the Borough would be provided".

It has not been possible for officers to progress with this project at this stage. As such, Members are asked to reconsider the request from Nuthall, with a view to making a suitable grant award. The original narrative is provided below:

Following a local consultation in March 2021 and as part of the resulting conversations, Nuthall Parish Council was asked to provide outdoor defibrillators in the Horsendale and Mornington areas of Nuthall. Two sites have been identified and the necessary permissions provided. One unit is to be placed outside a row of shops central to the Horsendale estate and the second is on the outer gates of the Assarts Farm Medical Centre.

The Parish Council is fully prepared to maintain and monitor these units and has taken advice from the Nuthall First Responder Team with regards to the most appropriate unit to purchase. The responder team have also agreed to provide training for the community, which the Parish Council will arrange at local venues and encouraging participation once the units have been installed.

The cost of two new fully automatic defibrillator outdoor packages is £2,590 plus VAT. Nuthall have requested grant aid of up to the full cost of purchasing the defibrillators. Going forward, Nuthall shall be responsible for repairs, maintenance and inspection of the facility and meet the cost of any power supply required.

The closing balance of Nuthall Parish Council funds as at 31 March 2021 was £131,406, with cash reserves of £140,635 (the difference being net creditors and debtors). The funds include reserves earmarked set aside for further improvements to the Temple Centre (£50,000) and an election reserve (£4,000).

The Nuthall Parish Council annual precept for 2022/23 was £120,748, which resulted in no increases on the previous year's council tax.

3. Kimberley Town Council – Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

Kimberley Town Council previously submitted grant aid requests towards its Christmas lights switch-on event; the electrical connection for a defibrillator; and improved disabled access to the Stag Recreation Ground.

These requests were previously considered at Finance and Resources Committee on 6 January 2022. The minutes show that Members resolved that these “three grant aid requests be deferred pending receipt of further assurances from Kimberley Town Council as to how it proposes to fund these schemes in the event of the Council only providing a partial contribution and further information about its intentions for use of its reserve balances”.

Kimberley Town Council has subsequently returned to officers to confirm that in the event of Broxtowe Borough Council only providing a partial contribution to any of these schemes, any shortfall would be drawn from general reserves.

The Town Council also confirmed that it is intending to build up its earmarked reserves to be used as a deposit towards a loan for the refurbishment or complete replacement of the Town Hall buildings and/or to provide a 10% contribution towards the Levelling Up Fund, if required, should the bid be successful.

Kimberley Town Council increased its Council Tax precept by 3.5% for 2022/23.

Members are now asked to reconsider the requests in view of this feedback provided. The original narratives are provided below for reference:

3a. Kimberley Town Council – Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

Kimberley Town Council has requested a retrospective grant of up to £6,700 towards the full cost of its recent Christmas lights switch-on event.

The event took place on 26 November 2021 on Toll Bar Square and Newdigate Street in Kimberley with stalls, fun ride and Santa's grotto in the hall. The estimated number of people attending the event was 1,300.

The total cost of the event was around £6,700 and included traffic management (£1,025), security (£763), equipment hire including the stage (£875), Liberty Leisure assistance (£1,100), fireworks (£2,450), entertainers (£280) and first aid support (£216). Kimberley Town Council indicated that no other financial aid was anticipated for this event.

3b. Kimberley Town Council – Electrical connection for Defibrillator

Kimberley Town Council has requested a revenue grant of up to £1,005 towards the cost of connecting the electricity supply for the new defibrillator situated on Cliffe Boulevard in Kimberley.

A defibrillator has been obtained, which was part-grant funded by Broxtowe Borough Council for the installation in a refurbished telephone box situated on Cliffe Boulevard. It has since been identified that a new electrical supply is required and a quotation of £1,006 has been received from Western Power for these works.

Members will recall similarly supporting Kimberley Town Council, as recently as January and March 2021, with two grant awards of £1,200 each towards the purchase of defibrillators to be located on Cliffe Boulevard (to which this application refers) and in the Swingate area of Kimberley.

Members should note that Kimberley Town Council stated in its earlier applications that it would be responsible for the repairs and maintenance and inspection of the facility and meet the cost of any power supply required.

3c. Kimberley Town Council – Improved Disabled Access Stag Recreation Ground

Kimberley Town Council has requested a capital grant towards the cost of disabled access works at the Stag Recreation Ground on Nottingham Road in Kimberley costing £6,700.

The Town Council indicate that several road bumps have been installed on the access road to the Stag Recreation Ground for health and safety reasons. It has since been identified that these road bumps create a problem for disabled users of the site. In order to alleviate these difficulties for the disabled users, Kimberley has commissioned a scheme to tarmac the current grassed area at the side of the access road.

The works costing £6,700, which have already been completed the contractors, were for tarmacing and included excavation, removal of any waste, installation of edging curbs, installation of weed suppressant membrane; installation of hardcore and tarmac.

Financial Information

The closing balance of Kimberley Town Council funds as at 31 March 2021 was £305,996 (£289,796 in 2020). Although the Town Council has considerable funds, a significant proportion of these funds are earmarked for either the extensive modernisation or complete replacement of the Town Hall, which is now 60-years-old. This is similarly the case in respect of other recreational buildings in the Town, as confirmed in a full building structural report received last year. The Kimberley Town Council annual precept for 2022/23 is £128,941, which was a 3.5% increase on council tax levels from the previous year.

Kimberley Town Council is considering the replacement of the current list of Earmarked Reserves to one consisting of Capital Receipts Reserves, Earmarked Reserves and General Reserves, with a predicted sum of £320,000 by 31 March 2022.

APPENDIX 2

Protocol for Consideration of Grant Aid to Parish and Town Councils

The Protocol for the Consideration of Grant Aid requests from Parish and Town Councils was agreed by Cabinet on 8 June 2010. The key provisions are:

1. Grant aid will only be given in support of specific projects or services and not as a general grant towards the services provided by a parish/town council.
2. Revenue grant aid will only be considered towards services which act as a replacement for services which otherwise Broxtowe Borough Council would have to provide or which supplement services which the borough council provides so as to reduce the costs that Broxtowe would otherwise incur.
3. In applying for grant assistance the parish/town council will need to demonstrate how the service or project in question contributes to Broxtowe's aims and objectives as laid out in the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
4. In applying for grant aid assistance the parish/town council will need to provide evidence as to why they do not have the financial resources to provide the services or project in question and what the consequences would be for local residents and businesses if the service was withdrawn or the project not completed. This will include a requirement for the parish/town council to detail what other funding sources they have secured (or otherwise) and to provide a statement as to any reserves held and their planned use.
5. Preference will be given to support for the provision of mandatory services as compared with discretionary services.
6. Where grant aid is to cover the cost of a specified service, the parish/town council will be responsible at its own cost for providing an audited statement within six months of the end of the financial year concerned to confirm the amount of expenditure incurred and income received against which grant aid may be payable. Any grant payable would then be adjusted retrospectively if necessary following receipt of such an audited statement.
7. Grant aid will only be in respect of additional costs directly incurred by the parish/town council and will not cover the cost of any general overheads which the parish/town council would otherwise incur anyway as a result of their operations.
8. Grant aid will be cash limited in each year and the responsibility for costs increasing beyond the cash limit will normally rest with the parish/town council. Where such cost increases are considered to be unavoidable and beyond the parish/town council's control, then Broxtowe may be approached to seek a further grant award.

9. Where the parish/town council wishes to vary the service provided for which grant aid has been awarded, this should only take place after full consultation and with the agreement of Broxtowe.
10. Preference will be given towards one off capital projects rather than as a regular annual contribution towards the ongoing costs of providing services.
11. The parish/town council shall be required to provide such information as Broxtowe may reasonably request as to the actual outputs and outcomes arising from any service or project where Broxtowe makes a contribution.
12. Any grant contribution that may be awarded by Broxtowe need not be at the rate of 100% of net expenditure incurred but may be at a lesser rate to reflect such as its own corporate priorities, budgetary constraints or the availability of similar services or projects elsewhere.
13. Revenue grants will normally only be awarded for one year although an indicative amount for the following year may be given at Broxtowe's discretion. Capital grant aid will be towards the cost of a specific one-off project.
14. Requests for grant aid in respect of a particular financial year should normally be submitted by the end of October of the preceding year at the latest to assist with forward budget planning for both Broxtowe and the parish/town council. Broxtowe will endeavour to make a decision on such requests by the end of December in the year preceding that for which grant aid is requested.

APPENDIX 3

Grant Aid Awards to Parish and Town Councils

The table below lists the grants awarded under this scheme since 2014/15.

Date	Council	Amount	Purpose
01/04/14	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,000	War memorial construction (Capital)
16/10/14	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,500	Cemetery maintenance
02/06/15	Cossall Parish Council	£350	Memorial plaque
19/04/16	Eastwood Town Council	£5,000	Building refurbishment works (Capital)
04/07/16	Greasley Parish Council	£4,000	Upgraded heating system (Capital)
19/09/16	Awsorth Parish Council	£5,000	Heating system replacement (Capital)
09/01/17	Brinsley Parish Council	£4,000	Play facility repairs/replace (Capital)
03/10/17	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,820	Remembrance parade
12/10/17	Greasley Parish Council	£1,000	Christmas lights event
12/10/17	Nuthall Parish Council	£3,395	Cemetery maintenance
26/04/18	Nuthall Parish Council	£12,000	Cemetery roadway surface (Capital)
26/04/18	Nuthall Parish Council	£2,000	Summer Youth Club
11/10/18	Greasley Parish Council	£647	WW1 commemoration sculpture
15/08/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,070	Summer play day
10/10/19	Awsorth Parish Council	£1,250	Kitchen Refurbishment – Pavilion
10/10/19	Brinsley Parish Council	£2,300	Tree planting – commemoration
10/10/19	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,855	Remembrance parade
10/10/19	Stapleford Town Council	£2,010	Remembrance event
10/10/19	Trowell Parish Council	£3,500	Car park refurbishment
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,000	Festive lighting display
13/02/20	Brinsley Parish Council	£1,225	VE Day celebrations 2020
07/01/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
30/03/21	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	New defibrillator
07/10/21	Nuthall Parish Council	£1,905	Remembrance parade
07/10/21	Nuthall Parish Council	-	£2,950 award pending for new defibrillators
09/12/21	Awsorth Parish Council	£7,000	Play area improvements (Capital)
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
09/12/21	Stapleford Town Council	£1,994	Remembrance Sunday Event
06/01/22	Kimberley Town Council	£1,200	Remembrance Sunday Event