

## **AGENDA ITEM No. 5**

Notes from the Meeting of the **Grants Panel** held on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2022** at **5.30pm**

In attendance – Councillors Ms L Crawford, A Hutton, B Smith, H Smith, P Squire and P Ward  
Assistant to the Town Clerk

No apologies had been received as all Grants Panel members were present.

The Panel had reviewed the 8 Applications received by the deadline against the current Grant Application process, which had been adopted by Council in September 2021 (Budget & Policy Committee Minute No. 142 refers).

The score provided by each Panel member for each Application had been collated by the Assistant to the Town Clerk, with the final average scores having been provided to Panel members at the meeting.

All Grant Applications were available for all Council Members to view on the Councillor Portal.

During the ensuing discussion particular reference was made to;

- that 2 applications had been received after the deadline, which had therefore been declined;
- that the Council's Community Grant budget amounted to £ 20,000 for the current financial year;
- the criteria by which an application might fit the Council's Grants Policy, and why it might not (i.e. if considered it could be a 'profit generating' organisation);
- if the Council's Grant Scoring form required amendment to identify such applications, as above;
- that Grants made are expected to be spent within the following financial year.

The scoring process required applications to receive a minimum average score of 10 to be considered for a Grant, however following discussion this caveat could be overturned if the application was found to have merit.

Following consideration of all Applications received, it was

**RECOMMENDED THAT Tavistock Town Council**

a) agree to the following Community Grants being allocated;

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount requested	Average score	Amount of Grant recommended
Tavistock Montessori Pre-School CIO	Towards the cost of a new building	£ 30,000 – £ 40,000	10.00	No grant to be allocated, as the application did not meet the Policy requirements
Vocal Harem Choir	Towards the cost of music for the 2023-24 season	£ 800	11.50	£ 800
Tavistock Museum	'Mobile Museum' project	£ 2, 470	13.00	£ 2, 470
T, N, M & WD Citizens' Advice	Towards running costs for the service in the Tavistock area	£ 4,000	11.17	£ 4,000
Tavistock Amateur Boxing Club	To meet cost of new boxing ring canvas	£ 520	12.17	£ 520
Tavistock Carers' Support Group	To help towards the cost of respite days out for carers	Not specified	8.60	£ 650
Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church**	To replace the Church's audio system	£ 1, 863	12.40	£ 1, 863
Devon & Cornwall Food Action	To purchase new tables to display available food	£ 320	14.67	£ 320
			Total allocated	£ 10, 623

b) Add an additional question to the Grant Scoring form to help identify potential 'profit making' organisations, which could preclude them from receiving a Grant.

Noted That \*\* In respect of this application, the Grants Panel acknowledged it was aware of the legislation as laid out in S.8 of the Local Government Act of 1894 which 'prohibits expenditure by local councils on property relating to the affairs of the church or an ecclesiastical charity'.

However, the Panel also acknowledged the differing legal views which subsisted regarding the interpretation of this legislation which remained untested in the courts. In all the circumstances, and having carefully considered the application on its specific merits, including that the benefit would be open to the whole community – people of all denominations and none, on balance it was considered that the application was both lawful, and eligible for a Grant, and that the hearing loop did not form part of the 'fabric of the building', being a much later, non-permanent addition to it.

The views of the Budget & Policy Committee and Council are sought.

The Meeting ended at 6.15pm.