

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL

GRANTS AND AWARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 1930 HOURS

Present: Councillors J Symes (substituting for D Bligh)
M Gallie (Chair)
K Pughe
P McMorrow

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio (Town Clerk)
S Sandiford (Head of Democratic and Central Services)
M Jahn (Committee Officer)
Kash Karimzandi (Chief Officer of Leighton Linslade Citizens Advice) joined remotely, part meeting

Members of the Public: 2

13/GA APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bligh (substituted by Councillor Symes). A minute's silence took place as a moment of reflection following the death of Councillor A White who was a member of this Sub-Committee and Council.

14/GA DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

15/GA PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from the public.

16/GA MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.

(b) There were no updates arising from the minutes.

17/GA LEIGHTON LINSLADE MUSIC CENTRE

Charlotte Payne of Inspiring Music was unable to attend the meeting but would provide a report at a future meeting in respect of services and grant funding provided by Leighton Linslade Town Council.

18/GA CITIZENS ADVICE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE

The Sub-Committee received a verbal update and a written report from the Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Leighton-Linslade, in respect of the grant funding received from the Town Council and services provided to the public. It was noted that members of the public were seeking advice for increasingly complex issues, particularly in respect of debts, benefits and homelessness in the present financial climate.

Members of the group thanked the staff and volunteers for all their hard work on behalf of residents of the Leighton-Linslade community.

RESOLVED to note the information.

19/GA GENERAL GRANT APPLICATIONS (2nd round for 2023-24)

(a) The Sub Committee was advised the budget allocated for General Grants in 2023-2024 totalled £10,000. Individual grant awards would be up to £500 each, or £250 for start-up organisations. A total of £2,050 had been allocated in the first funding round earlier in the year, leaving £7,950 available.

RESOLVED to note the information.

(b) The Sub-Committee received the general grant guidelines for 2023-2024 for background information in considering applications.

RESOLVED to note the information.

(c) The Sub-Committee received a summary of the fifteen applications received for a General Grant in 2023-2024, along with a summary of the documents submitted with the applications. Grant applications 1 – 13 met eligibility criteria with just one query raised, which would be followed up with the applicant.

RESOLVED to approve payment of general grants totalling £5,205 from the remaining 2023-24 budget, subject to all applicants having met the required criteria by providing the required documentation, as set out below.

Organisation	Purpose of General Grant	Amount
4 TH Linslade Guides	Subsidise Transport costs for residential trip	£500
L-L Community First Responders	Fund equipment and training	£500
LB Women's Institute	To support annual speaker programme	£500
L-L Cancer Support Group	Cost of room hire for weekly support meetings	£500
Linslade Lower School Association	Replace digital tablet devices used by early years pupils for extracurricular/optional activities	£500
Off The Rails	To purchase plants, compost and plant	£500

	food and for improvements to the font of the station	
Southcott School Association	To purchase, install two large round wooden picnic benches in the school grounds one to be wheelchair accessible	£500
1 st LB Scout Group	To fund transport hire for scouts & equipment for summer camp 2024	£500
Sacred Heart Church	To replace 2 faulty fridges and freezers for church hall	£500
Heath and Reach Scout Group	To purchase a range of indoor and outdoor equipment	£455
The Bees Knees Business Club CIC	To improve the group website to manage events, accept payments and share information	£250
TS Ocean Naval Cadets	To purchase equipment to provide additional capacity for kayaking and air rifle courses	£500
Tibbs Dementia Foundation	To support costs of a fortnightly walk and meeting for those with dementia and their carers	£500
TOTAL		£5205

The Sub-Committee then gave consideration to two further applications which did not meet all eligibility criteria.

LB Reiki Support Group	T support running costs for volunteers to offer reiki treatments once a month	£500
Linslade Galaxy Football Club in collaboration with Vandyke Upper School	To purchase goal posts for 2 new pitches aimed at increasing opportunities for girls to play competitive football.	£500

The LB Reiki Support Group was not a constituted group and therefore had no committee/steering group and no group bank account in its name. It was agreed to encourage the group of volunteers to adopt a more formalised status as this would enable them to access grant funding and to signpost to the support which could be provided by Community Voluntary Service Bedfordshire. As a one-off and in recognition of the service being provided to the community for voluntary donations, it was agreed to pay the group's room hire cost direct to the registered charity which managed the venue.

The application from Linslade Galaxy Football Club related to sports and had therefore been referred to Leighton Linslade Sports Council. It was understood that LLSC would consider the application at a meeting on 16 November. Should this not be successful, the committee was in favour, in principle, of supporting the group on this occasion.

20/GA GUARANTEED GRANT PAYMENTS 2023-24

The Sub-Committee received a report in respect of the Guaranteed Grant Scheme. It was noted that the scheme was now in the fourth and final year of the current term and the committee was asked to consider any changes for 2024/25 onwards.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy & Finance Committee:

- (a) that the Guaranteed Grant scheme should continue for the next four-year period.**
- (b) that the starting budget of £42,000 for 2024/25 be considered sufficient.**
- (c) that one change be added to the grant guidelines: that organisations should be asked if they were receiving any other grants/funding for their organisation.**

21/GA YOUNG PERSONS AWARDS

The Sub Committee received a report on the Young Person awards scheme and the proposed changes for 2024 onwards.

The Head of Cultural & Economic Services had met with young people and the TACTIC team to discuss these awards and it was agreed to use TACTIC's successful relationships with local schools as a basis for promoting and presenting the awards. It was suggested that the award categories be clarified and that they be changed to:

- Young Star – Artistic Achiever
- Young Start – Sporting Sensation
- Young Star – Beyond Boundaries
- Young Star – Valuable Volunteer
- Young Star – Compassionate Carer

A question was asked about academic achievement but it was noted this could be covered in the "Beyond Boundaries" category.

RESOLVED to note and endorse the recommended changes to the Young People award scheme.

22/GA EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding staffing matters.

23/GA COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Sub-Committee received and discussed the nominations of four individuals for the 2024 Community Volunteer Awards. Whilst the guidelines stated that normally, a maximum of three nominations would be put forward, it was felt that all four met the criteria and should be put forward to the Policy and Finance Committee. Consent would now be sought from nominees to proceed with the award procedure at the January meetings of the committee and Council.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Finance Committee to consider recommending to Council approval of four nominations for the 2024 Community Volunteer Awards, subject to consent being obtained from nominees.

The meeting closed at 2038 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2023.

Chair

13 MAY 2024