

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – 23RD FEBRUARY 2021 COUNCIL

6. SOCIAL EMERGENCY FUND (SEF) AND GRANTS BUDGET UPDATES ON APPROVALS TO DATE AND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION

a). Clare Bevan – Lighthouse Community Centre b). Kelly Nokes – Darcies Reading Den

Social Emergency Fund Budget	£20,000
Liskeard Methodist Church	£250
St Martin's Church (£2,940 approved - £500 returned unspent)	£2,440
Real Junk Food Project – 1 st Application	£250
Liskeard School & Community College – 1 st Application	£1,000
Covid Facemask Group	£250
Hillfort School	£2,033
Real Junk Food Project – 2 nd Application	£1,429.99
Café Abundance	£500
St Martin's Church – 2 nd Application	£1,000
Lighthouse CIC	£700
Liskeard School & Community College – 2 nd Application	£2,000
Young People Cornwall EmpowHER	£350
Emma Packham – Vacation Half Term Food Project	£114.63
Royal Voluntary Service – Cornwall Community Transport Liskeard	£750
St Martin's Church – Christmas Food Hampers	£500
St Martin's Church – Christmas Toys	£500
Lighthouse CIC – Christmas Shoe Boxes	£600
Salvation Army – Christmas Toys	£600
Citizens Advice Cornwall (Liskeard)	£2,000
Approved to Date	£17,267.62
Left to allocate until 31 st March 2021	£2,732.38
Kelly Nokes – Darcies Reading Den – Purchase of a stock of books for distribution in conjunction with the Foodbank	£500
Clare Bevan – Lighthouse Community Centre – men's mental health club – requesting from £500 minimum to possible £5,000	£500 - £5,000
If approved new total	£18,267.62
Left to allocate until 31 st March 2021	£1,732.38

a). Clare Bevan – Lighthouse Community Centre – men's mental health club SEF – requesting from £500 minimum to possible £5,000. The accounts are attached as 6.b.i. Clare Bevan has commented:

“Our turnover was lower than usual due to spending much of the year focusing our efforts on setting up the waterspouts club, Emotional Logic and training staff in both areas. However the benefits of that will be seen in this coming years accounts.

If you require any further information please do let me know”.

b). Kelly Nokes – Darcies Reading Den – Purchase of a stock of books for distribution in conjunction with the Foodbank. SEF - £500

Note – that David Berry (Liskeard and Looe Foodbank) has confirmed “We were contacted by Kelly Nokes, a local rep for Usborne Books who was keen to work with us in getting educational/activity books out to local families in need.

She mentioned she would be applying for grants to facilitate this venture - we have indicated that we would like to help in whatever way we can in ensuring distribution to those most in need.”

The Responsible Financial Officer has reminded that awards to individuals would involve them keeping receipts and proof of expenditure.

Town Clerk’s Note – There is one more scheduled Council meeting and one Special Council meeting before the end of the financial year. Some other applications might be received in the next 6 weeks. The only other application that has been received is for the mainstream Grant programme.

We have also received an application for the mainstream

Andrew Mullan – Grants Application Starts Changing Places toilet - £500 – Is ok with the 30th March 2021 Council meeting.

Grants Budget	£10,000
Cornwall Air Ambulance	£300
St Martin’s Church “Christmas Carols Car Park”	£500
Approved	£800
Remaining Budget	£9,200
Andrew Mullan – Grants Application Starts Changing Places toilet	£500
If approved new total	£1,300
Left to allocate until 31 st March 2021	£8,700

RECOMMENDATIONS: a. That the Council consider the application from the Lighthouse Community Centre. b. That the Council consider the application from Darcies Reading Den.

10. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE – Items deferred from 26th January 2021

Monitoring Officer's decision. Neighbourhood Plan Advice. CALC advice on chatbox.

Monitoring Officer's decision - The Town Clerk has been contacted by the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer has investigated two complaints in respect of the Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer's reports "found there to be no breach of the Code of Conduct".

Neighbourhood Plan Advice – Cornwall Council Neighbourhood Plan Team Advice – in the recent discussions concerning the location of development opportunities in the town centre and out of town locations, it was suggested that a "refresh" of the Neighbourhood Plan might create opportunities to find suitable sites.

The Cornwall Council Neighbourhood Plan team have been providing advice regarding changing Neighbourhood Plans. The status of the employment land at Moorswater Industrial Estate that is being exchanged between a Parish Council with a draft Neighbour Plan and the Town Council with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan. One of the key points made by them was 'Reviewing a made plan [...] will require all statutory processes to be repeated, including area designation, consultation, examination and referendum'.

Cornwall Association of Local Council's (CALC) Advice on Chatbox – "Use of the chat bar function during meetings

The chat bar function should not be used by members for discussion during meetings. Any discussion during meetings needs to place in the public domain. The same applies for members of the public joining the call. The Chairman may therefore wish to give the following reminders in their welcome briefing :

- That the chat bar should not be used during meetings
- That the council welcomes public participation at the item on the agenda but the chat function should not be used for public participation during the meeting."

The Mayor and Chairs meeting discussed this and recommended that a possible review of the Neighbourhood Plan is considered after the election in the context of setting new aims and objectives for the next four years.

16. CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CALC) – Retention of Virtual Meetings – a) To write to the Cabinet Office and MP for the retention of the possibility of holding virtual meetings.

The legislation which allows council meetings to be held virtually expires on 7 May 2021. Whilst NALC continues to lobby Government to retain the ability to hold virtual meetings, it has this week indicated that it is not being considered at this time. Unless the legislation is changed this means that the ability to hold virtual meetings will cease and we will be required to resume holding physical meetings. While the public hall may be large enough to hold suitably socially distanced meetings to include councillors, officers and members of the public, this will require risk assessing, with possible need of additional staffing to ensure safe entry and exit of the building by members of the public and capture of necessary track and trace information, etc. Due to personal circumstances, some members may not feel safe to return to physical meetings and could be excluded.

CALC are working to develop some guidance in case this becomes the legal position but in the meantime are continuing to press for the extension of the virtual meeting legislation as a way of managing lockdown restrictions in the future. They are therefore asking local councils to contact their MP and press for the need to retain the option for virtual meetings in the future to keep communities safe.