



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 28th FEBRUARY 2024

Councillors Present: Cllr Mark Rowley (chair)
Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Robin Carter,
Maggie Don, Scott Edwards, and Emily Fedorowycz

Officers present:- Martin Hammond, Town Clerk

No members of the public/press attended.

Item Number	Description
FC23/070	Apologies for absence None
FC23/071	Declarations of interest None declared. It was noted that Cllr Don had a non pecuniary connection with Homestart Friends and Accommodation Concern.
FC23/072	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 24 th January 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair
FC23/073	Public session None
FC23/074	Use of Ward Initiatives Fund A report was submitted which proceeded from the decision at the last meeting to use the unspent monies in the ward initiatives fund to make awards to those organisations which had bid into the summer 2023 grants award for the voluntary and community sector and not had an award or who had only partially succeeded. There were three organisations which had scored highly enough to be funded in that programme but

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	<p>which the Council had not funded to the requested level, or at all, because of a shortage of funding.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the monies left over be split equally between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kettering Food bank - Homestart - William St Community Garden 																								
<p>FC23/075</p>	<p>Love Wildlife Grants</p> <p>The applications for Love Wildlife grants were submitted. A total of 14 applications had been received, with a combined total ask of £8400, against a budget of £3000.</p> <p>Members considered the applications received and</p> <p>RESOLVED that the following grants be offered.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 853 1385 1451"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th> <th>Project</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kettering Science Academy</td> <td>Gardening skills for SEN pupils</td> <td>£1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park Junior PTFA</td> <td>Turn garden on site into Eco club and eco hub</td> <td>£1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kettering Nature Group</td> <td>Bat detectors</td> <td>£400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Marys CEVA PTA</td> <td>Hedgehog homes, bird feeder, seeds and biodiversity activities</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bishop Stopford School</td> <td>Gardening society to extend garden project and creating new habitats</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southfield School for Girls</td> <td>Develop pond area and create more habitats</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Project	Amount	Kettering Science Academy	Gardening skills for SEN pupils	£1000	Park Junior PTFA	Turn garden on site into Eco club and eco hub	£1000	Kettering Nature Group	Bat detectors	£400	St Marys CEVA PTA	Hedgehog homes, bird feeder, seeds and biodiversity activities	£200	Bishop Stopford School	Gardening society to extend garden project and creating new habitats	£200	Southfield School for Girls	Develop pond area and create more habitats	£200			
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<p>FC24/076</p>	<p>Review of Grants Policy</p> <p>A report was submitted which sought the committee's views about several amendments to the Council's grants policy in the light of experience during 2022 and 2023. Attached to the report was a summary of all the grants which had been made in that period and the current state of delivery in each case.</p> <p>The report proposed that some organisations should be commissioned on a multi- year basis to provide services against a service level agreement. It further suggested narrowing down the criteria against which voluntary sector grants could be awarded and finally a combination of the existing biodiversity fund of £3000 with a sum of £5000 drawn</p>																								

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	<p>from the existing grants fund to create a wider environmental fund.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the grants policy be amended as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- £5000 be allocated towards providing core funding to selected organisations for a three year service level agreement starting in 2024.- £10,000 be provided for applications which meet the following two criteria only<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health and wellbeing• Cost of living- £5000 be allocated towards environmental projects and that this sum be combined with the biodiversity budget of £3000
FC24/077	<p>Lottery Fund Priorities for 2024/5</p> <p>A report was considered which asked members to identify a single good cause for making a lottery grant award in 2024/5. This followed on from the Committee's decision at the last meeting to move away from multiple small awards and aim to make one larger award in each year. The amended policy and chosen priority required Council approval.</p> <p>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND to Council that the policy on Lottery awards for 2024 should be to make a single allocation of all the available funds for a cultural project, probably in November when the likely fund would reach £4000.</p>
FC24/078	<p>Mayoral Activity</p> <p>A report on the Mayor's activity, fund raising and events was submitted for information, alongside an update on repairs to the mace and the reproduction of the new coat of arms as a pendant to the Mayor's chains of office.</p>
FC24/079	<p>Climate Change Mitigation – policy statement</p> <p>A report was submitted which explained that the 2021 Environment Act required town and parish councils to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The statutory guidance issued under the Act did not impose any actions on the Council that it was not already undertaking, but it was considered helpful to provide a single overview of our policies and activity, so it can be referenced and made available on request and findable on our website.</p>

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	<p>A summary statement was included within the report for publication within the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan 2024 onwards had been approved by Council in December and these paragraphs would need to be added into it.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the text submitted to the meeting be approved as an amendment to the corporate plan, with the addition of a reference to partnership working against the objective of eliminating the use of single use plastic items</p>
FC23/080	<p>Climate Change Mitigation – actions</p> <p>A report was submitted which sought views on two potential actions for funding in 2024/5.</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) A grant of £79 be made to the Kettering Eco group to enable them to make wildflower seeds freely available to residents and businesses as part of their competition to encourage support for butterflies.b) To support the recycling of blister packs, Boots be approached with an offer to part fund a recycling box to collect blister packs, and that NNC be asked to more widely advertise the fact that blister packs could not be collected in blue bins but could be left at facilities such as the one to be proposed to Boots.
FC23/081	<p>Monitoring of the Corporate Plan</p> <p>A verbal update was made against the monitoring report.</p>
FC23/082	<p>Budget Monitoring and Invoices</p> <p>A report was submitted detailing the council's budgetary position and reporting items of expenditure since the last meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A) That the financial position be notedB) That the payment of £46.80 to the clerk for expenses incurred be approved

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	c) That the Deputy Clerk be authorised to seek CILCA qualification from the SLCC, using NCALC training provision, at a total cost of £1500, to be met by training budgets in 2024/5 and from the unspent member training budget in 2023/4.
	Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed.....

Date.....