

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Grants

Author Clerk
Meeting date 8 July 2020

1. Background

In September 2018 Cotherstone Parish Council adopted a Grant Awarding Policy, process and conditions of funding, and approved an application form. The policy was reviewed by the Parish Council in November 2019 and no changes were made to it.

In recent years, the Parish Council has made annual contributions to Cotherstone Village Hall (£500) and to Play@Cotherstone (£150), making these payments each November.

The Parish Council budget for 2020/21, approved on 8 January 2020, allocated £700 for Contributions and Support. There is no other provision in the budget for the awarding of grants. To date, nothing has been spent from this allocation.

On 10 May 2020 the treasurer of Play@Cotherstone appealed to the Parish Council for extra assistance to meet maintenance, insurance and other costs, given that it is very unlikely that the group will be able to do any fundraising activities or events this summer season. All councillors received the appeal letter and accompanying documentation. The Parish Council was unable to consider this appeal at its May meeting, but the approach was acknowledged and, pending consideration at the June Parish Council meeting, Play@Cotherstone was referred to several other potential sources of grant funding.

At its June 2020 meeting, the Parish Council decided to publicise the availability of small grants, inviting those non-commercial organisations on its Community Forum database to apply by 26 June 2020. The Parish Council would then assess applications and make a decision on meeting demand through the use of financial reserves if appropriate.

2. Call for applications for small grants

On 14 June 2020, emails were sent to the following organisations:

- Trees for Cotherstone
- Cotherstone Lunch Club
- Cotherstone Fun Weekend
- St Cuthbert's Church
- Yoga/Zumba classes
- The Society of Friends
- Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan Group
- Cotherstone Pre-School
- Cotherstone Moor Field Reeves
- Cotherstone Primary School
- Play@Cotherstone
- Cotherstone Methodist Church
- The Clowns
- Our Cotherstone

- Club Cotherstone
- Cotherstone Over 50s Club
- Cotherstone Toddler Group
- Teesdale Players
- Cotherstone Flower & Vegetable Show
- Pilates class
- Cotherstone Village Hall
- Cancer Research Teesdale

The message to the groups' contacts was that the Parish Council is aware that the impact of the current coronavirus pandemic might be having a detrimental effect on local community and voluntary groups and therefore invite applications for small grants. Details were also provided of other potential funding sources.

3. Response

By the application deadline of 26 June 2020, just one application had been received — from Play@Cotherstone. All councillors have received the full documentation.

Cotherstone Park Sustainability Project 2020 — The grant request is for £1,738 towards a total project cost of £1,888 to purchase fixed goal posts (£500), two new seats (£738) and insurance (£650). A grant of £150 has been received from the Rotary Club for this project, and applications for a further £753 are pending. The group currently have general reserves of £5,445.

Recommendation

1. To consider one grant application.