

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 16 May 2023

Title: Coronation

Purpose of Report

To receive feedback with regards to the Coronation.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to choose option XX regarding the mugs, bags and flags.

Background

1. The council allocated funds of £5,000 from its own budget for the Coronation event. It was not given any external funding to assist with the events or activities that people might have wished to see taking place in the town. A number of meetings were held and all organisations and groups in the town were invited to attend these and put forward ideas to a working group made up of councillors and people who attended the meetings. The meetings were widely publicised both in the local paper and elsewhere.
2. Groups were invited to put applications in for the grants and when it became clear that very few were willing to assist with organising community events, a decision was made to purchase mugs, bags and packets of seeds for the school children along with additional flags for the town, which the Christmas Lights organisation kindly agreed to put up along with the existing flags that they possessed.
3. In addition additional toilet facilities were made available in the recreation ground should any groups have wanted to organise any events at the last minute. This decision had to be taken early as it suppliers were asking for an early commitment in order to be able to ensure supply.
4. As a result of the decisions made, £4,843.65 was spent. The decisions that the Town Council made have generally resulted in positive comments and words of appreciation which can be seen on **Appendix 22A**. There were only 2 negative comments and responses have been sent to these people explaining the reasons that lay behind the choices made.

Report

5. For the Coronation, officers were instructed to purchase the following:

600 Mug £2.15 ex VAT

600 Bags £2.07 ex VAT

1000 Hand held flags for a total of £384.00 ex VAT

600 Wildflower seedpackets 0.85p (VAT n/a)

6. The Mayor volunteered to put together the bags of coronation gifts for the school. Then officers and the Deputy Mayor distributed mugs, bags, seeds and flags to Herne View CofE Primary School and flags to Vaughan Lee House, Muchelney House, Hazelwell Lodge, Horton Cross Nursing Home.

7. The remaining stock held is as follows:

21 bags – complete (mug, flag, wildflower seeds)

6 mugs

4 packet seeds

8. Members are asked to delegate to officers one of the following options:

A. Auction off the items, with proceeds going to the Mayor's choice of a local charity

B. To sell items to the general public at cost price

C. To give the items to organisations that have a kitchen area such as the Ile Youth Centre, The Minster Rooms or Arts Centre. Members may have other thoughts of suitable recipients.

6 Members may choose one of the options provided or have an idea of their own. Officers will report back to Full Council the outcome of the chosen option.

Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
May 2023