

Committee: Resources

Date: 10th January 2023

Title: Grant applications

Purpose of Report:

For Members to consider grant applications from the Arts Centre, the Green Ilminster Tree Project, and the Quakers.

Recommendation:

- a) Members resolve to approve the grant for £500 for the Arts Centre from the 2022-23 Grant budget.
- b) Members resolve to approve the grant for £150 for the Green Ilminster Tree Project from the 2022-23 Grant budget.
- c) Members resolve to approve the grant for £160 for the Quakers from the 2022-23 Grant budget.

Background

1. Members have a Resources Grant budget of £10,400 of which £6000 has been allocated so far this financial year in grants to the library, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Christmas Lights committee. There is £4400 remaining in the budget. Any unallocated funds will be returned at the end of the financial year to General Reserves.
2. Each of the applicants for funding has completed the requisite application forms and these have been appended to this report for members to consider.

Report

The Arts Centre application (Appendix 8A)

3. The Arts Centre would like to upgrade the internet, telephones and IT systems to improve our service to visitors and attract new, more diverse customers.
4. At the moment, the internet speed is not fit for purpose, averaging download speeds of 12mb/s. They offer public Wi-Fi to visitors of the Arts Centre and the café, it is slow and unreliable so not of much practical use to visitors.
5. It is essential that they are prepared for the PSTN switch-off in 2025, when BT will be moving to a fully digital phone service. At present, the telephone lines frequently cut out, which makes it difficult to take telephone bookings.
6. They would like to integrate all our documents and systems into Office 365, along with emails, and set up an internal SharePoint site for users to access.

7. The total anticipated cost of project will be £1728 (inc VAT) £1,728 (inc. VAT). They are requesting a grant of £500 29% of the total project cost. A grant for £500 has been applied for from Magic Little Grants, they are awaiting the outcome of that application.
8. The Arts Centre is a charity some of the grant could be used to make up possible funding shortfalls. They will cover the ongoing monthly costs of the new systems via our regular income streams.

The Green Ilminster Tree Project application (Appendix 8B)

9. Green Ilminster would like to plant small groups of trees at different sites around the town of Ilminster. The land owner SSDC has given written approval. The total number of trees will be 30 at a cost of £20 per tree.
10. The trees will be beneficial to the environment and help to offset some of the green house gases that Ilminster as a town produces.
11. The total anticipated cost of project will be £600. They are requesting a grant of £150 which represents 25% of the total project cost. A grant for £150 has been applied for from SSDC, they are awaiting the outcome of that application.

The Quakers (Appendix 8C)

12. The Quakers are joining with the minster to provide a warm place on Sunday afternoons in the Minster Rooms for those in need. They will be providing soup, tea, coffee.
13. The grant will also be able to be used to help towards the cost of the power and energy that is used to provide this service to the community
14. Members may wish to award grants of upto £500 or may have a different resolution for this application.

Vicky Freeman
Administration Officer
January 2023