



Date: 01 October 2020

Title: Report Item 11 – Parish Council Grants

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on applications received to date

Recommendations: a) To note the report
b) To consider and approve the applications

Background

At the June parish council meeting, councillors expressed concern that village clubs and societies might be suffering financially, and agreed that the parish council should support them so far as it could, and through them the village hall and the wider community. Councillor Wheatley put an article in the parish magazine, calling for applications for grant funding in 2020/21, with no deadline for applications. No responses came in for some while, probably because meetings are not being held and are still subject to restrictions (tightened again on 24 September).

A second message has been sent by email or letter to all the village clubs and societies, to reiterate the offer of help with **no deadline for applications**. The offer holds for the remainder of this financial year.

Applications received

- **Cuckmere Community Bus** – the CCB is not one of the village clubs and societies for whom the grant scheme was devised. The parish council makes a contribution to the annual cost of running the local service (Bus number 41) which is based on a fixed amount per Tuesday run, reduced by the fares received (ticket sales and concessionary fares from ESCC). The more passengers the bus carries, the lower the EDFPC contribution. There have been no contributions charged to EDFPC since CCB temporarily suspended operations at the end of March. CCB resumed part services in June and progressively returned some services over the following months; but the outlook is somewhat uncertain at present. CCB will not be restarting the formal quarterly invoicing to EDFPC at this time as they are not operating a full Tuesday service and passenger numbers are currently a little low (but growing). As a charity CCB relies heavily on contributions/donations from local authorities and passengers to help meet its regular annual cash costs (and exceptional Covid-19 costs this year). A note provided by CCB in support of financial assistance has been circulated to councillors. The company is aware of the council's grant

policy/procedure and is not necessarily asking for any consideration under that heading. However, the payment the parish council would have made to Cuckmere Buses this year is included in the budget, but is not being fully spent. The company therefore requests the council to consider making an ex gratia payment to Cuckmere Buses from this under-spent bus service budgetary provision. A budget of £2,800 is provided for the Cuckmere Community Bus in 2020/21. Only £549 has been spent (in payment of the invoice for the last quarter of 2019/20, i.e. January to March 2020).

- **The Bowling Club** – an application has been circulated confidentially to councillors for an unspecified contribution.
- **The Parish Magazine** – an application has been circulated confidentially to councillors.

The Budget

The parish council has a budget of £1,500 remaining for general grants in 2020/21, having already made a donation of £500 to Care for the Carers (Charity of the Year 2020), and a supplementary donation of £250 to the JPK Project (Charity of the Year 2019) to compensate for its loss of income during the lockdown.

A separate budget head of £1,000 is provided for churchyard maintenance.