

Minutes of a meeting of the Grant Aid sub committee held at the Town Hall, Denbigh on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 5pm.

Present: Councillors Rob Parkes, Raymond Bartley, Roy Tickle, Gaynor Wood, Medwyn Williams and Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Colin Hughes (chairman), Shereen Devine (deputy chairman).

In the absence of the chairman and deputy chairman Cllr Rob Parkes was elected to chair the meeting

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Roy Tickle – Midsummer Festival
Cllr Gaynor Wood – Midsummer Festival
Cllr Raymond Bartley – Denbigh Carnival
Cllr Raymond Bartley – Aged and Disabled Fund

1. **To discuss and recommend a policy on grant aid payment for the current financial year 2015 / 2016:** As this meeting was the first meeting of the new financial year it was agreed that the council's grant aid policy be reviewed. A great deal of concern was expressed with regard to the council policy to place a ceiling of £3,000 on applications received. Since the policy was agreed it would appear that many more applications are being submitted for £3,000. Comment was made that the council is dealing with public money. Reference was also made to paragraph 6 of the notes of guidance attached to the application form, namely that any grant made over £1,000 a report must be provided on how the money was spent. It was agreed that all applications for large amounts must be deeply scrutinised.

It was agreed to recommend to the full council the following policy to ensure that there was sufficient funding to cover all grant aid applications received during the year:

- (1) Applications from national charities. To recommend continuation of the policy of £100 per application but to retain a prerogative if a specific local situation or emergency.
- (2) Applications from local charities. To recommend continuation of the policy that each application be dealt with on its merit.
- (3) A ceiling of **£1,500** be placed on each application. It was also agreed to recommend that each application be carefully scrutinised and if need be further details requested. Consideration for larger grants than £1,500 could be made if the application, following scrutiny justified the higher grant.
- (4) Each application must be accompanied by a balance sheet or accounts or if not available an explanation as to why this was so.
- (5) All grants allowed which exceeded £1,000 applicants must submit a written report on how the grant was spent. The report to be submitted to the town council within 12 months of the date of the grant.

It was reported that **£51,000** was available in the grant aid budget for the financial year 2015/2016.

1. Denbigh & Flint Show 2015. Annual application. It was agreed to recommend a grant of **£350** (S.137)
2. Cae Dai. Application seeking funding of £3,000 towards project costs of £3,144 to install a fire alarm system at the museum. Application deferred by council in February for further quotations and for two concerns raised by the council to be addressed by the applicant. Further deferred in March as information not received. To date the additional information requested had not been received. It was agreed to recommend further deferment.

3. Vale of Clwyd Denbigh Plum Association. First time of asking. Up to £3,000 sought towards total costs of £4,953. Funding for this event in the past had been provided via the Denbigh Business Group. A number of concerns were expressed. It was noted that the officers of this association were the same as that of the business group. A question was asked as to why this group had been set up and apart from the business group. Following considerable discussion it was agreed to recommend deferment and information sought (1) whether the bank account had been opened, (2) whether the group had a constitution.
4. Denbigh Business Group. Annual application seeking funding of £3,000 to arrange (1) summer business showcase, (2) Christmas festival and (3) St David's day festival 2016. Once again concern expressed over the overlap with the Denbigh Plum Association application. Following considerable discussion it was agreed to recommend deferment and to obtain more information on the summer business showcase and its relationship to a public event.
5. Denbigh Aged and Disabled Fund. Annual application – no specific amount asked for. Cllr Bartley at the request of the meeting provided additional information. Cllr Bartley having declared an interest left the chamber whilst the application was discussed. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £1,350 (S.137).
6. Elite Martial Arts. Second application. £1,500 sought towards costs of £2,093.47 to provide training / safety equipment. Details of the equipment required submitted. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £1,500 (S.137)
7. Denbigh Carnival. Annual application. £3,000 sought towards cost of £4k - £4.5k. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £3,000 (S.137). It was also suggested to recommend that as the town council appeared to be the main financial contributor to the event that it be suggested to the organisers that they market the fact that the town council is the main sponsor for the event.
8. Denbigh Midsummer Festival. Annual application. £2,500 sought towards costs of £3,000. Cllrs Roy Tickle and Gaynor Wood having declared an interest left the chamber whilst the application was discussed. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £2,500 (S.137). Here again It was also suggested to recommend that as the town council appeared to be the main financial contributor to the event that it be suggested to the organisers that they market the fact that the town council is the main sponsor for the event.
9. Love Lane Neighbourhood Watch. £200 sought towards total costs of £350 to fund Love Lane in Bloom. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £200 (S.137).
10. Denbigh Bowling Club. Second application. £3,000 sought towards total costs of £4,434 to purchase a replacement mower – details submitted. It was agreed to recommend a grant of £3,000 with a proviso that the grant be specifically used to purchase a mower and that verification / receipt for the purchase to submitted to the town council.

Total amount of grants recommended - **£11,900** thus leaving a balance of £39,100 in the grant aid budget for the remaining eleven months of the current financial year.

The meeting closed at **6.15** pm