

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Common Good Fund Committee

4 October 2021

Applications for Financial Assistance

Report by Head of Culture & Community Services

(Report No. 21/170)

The report asks Perth Common Good Fund Committee to consider applications for financial assistance for 5 small grants.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1. Perth and Kinross Council owns land and property which forms part of the Common Good of the former burghs in Perth and Kinross and has a statutory duty in terms of section 15 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 to administer this land and property “having regard to the interests of the inhabitants” of those former burghs. This duty also applies to the administration of the associated Common Good Funds.
- 1.2. The Common Good Funds have traditionally demonstrated their support to local residents and organisations by distributing grants. These grant awards allow individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community-based activities.
- 1.3. Applications to Common Good Funds vary across the different former burghs of Perth and Kinross. The Perth Common Good Fund is larger and receives a much higher number of applications than the other Funds. Therefore, additional criteria are applied to assist with assessing applications (see Appendix 1).
- 1.4. The 2021/22 Budget for the Perth Common Good Fund was approved at the Committee meeting on 28th April 2021 (Report 21/54 refers). A summary of the approved Financial Assistance budget, committed grant funding, and the budget remaining, is provided below:

2021/22 Financial Assistance Budget	
Small Grants	£60,000
Capital Grants	£40,000
Value of grants committed	
Small Grants	£4,945
Capital Grants	£28,275
Remaining Financial Assistance Budget	
Small Grants	£55,055
Capital Grants	£11,725
Value of awards under consideration	
Small Grants	£7,620
Capital Grants	£nil

2. SMALL GRANTS

Tulloch Primary School – Revised Request

- 2.1 In October 2020 committee considered an application from Tulloch PS to help with the costs of a residential trip to Dalguise. Committee agreed to offer a grant of £2,154 to cover the project costs. In February 2021 (homologated in April 2021) committee considered an updated request from Tulloch PS, who had had to cancel the residential trip due to COVID restrictions. Tulloch PS had asked for a contribution towards a day trip for pupils instead and committee agreed to award £1,337 to cover these costs. Unfortunately, again due to COVID restrictions, this day trip was also cancelled and Tulloch PS have now asked for a further reconsideration. The school is confident that the original plan for a two day residential trip can go ahead in May 2022. Revised costs are estimated as £1892.50, which includes the cost of the bus and a contribution of 75% towards the cost of 10 pupils who qualify for free school meals and would potentially otherwise be unable to attend.

Consideration

- 2.2 The original request for financial support was considered under Criteria 9.7 and applying the same again would indicate a grant of up to £750 would be consistent with this criteria.

Perth Chinese Association

- 2.3 This grant application is to further advance the education and community development of the Chinese community in P&K. The Perth Chinese Association wishes to host the annual Chinese New Year Celebrations in January 2022. A Civic Reception is planned along with fireworks display and a procession of Chinese Lion & Dragon Dancers in various City Centre streets, as agreed with the Perth City Centre Management events team. This is one of the biggest public Chinese New Year celebrations in Scotland, with approx. 5,000 attendees. The costs are projected as £10,500 and this application is for £5,500.

Specific Items	Amount (£)
Firecrackers	£1,000
Decorations	£1,500
Stall/Entertainment	£3,000
Chinese Dragon Dancers	£3,500
Security	£1,500
Total Expenditure	£10,500

- 2.4 The dates for the event are 29 - 30 January 2022. Dignitaries from PKC and Chinese Communities from all over Scotland are to be invited, along with MSPs and MPs. Further links are being developed in Kinross High School 'Confucius Hub', Strathallan, Craigclowan and Perth College with a view to future involvement.

Consideration

- 2.5 It is considered that a grant of £4,200 is consistent with Criteria 9.2(a).

Past Funding

Year	Amount	Criteria	Project
2020/21	£3,500	9.2	COVID – Winter Festival cancelled
2019/20	£3,500	9.2	Chinese New Year
2018/19	£3,500	9.2	Chinese New Year

Perth Indigent Old Mens' Society

- 2.6 This grant application is to help support approximately 40 older men living in Perth City Centre area. They have been assessed by the Society as in need of financial support and generally live alone. The Society provides essential support to them in varying ways through an annual contribution to heating bills, meals and trips out and by a regular network of support through visits and befriending. The applicant is seeking to secure £900 to cover the cost of the New Year lunch and a Spring High Tea. Of the 40 beneficiaries, 10 are Directors of the society and pay for their own meals. The applicant has not previously benefited from the fund.
- 2.7 The Society have also sought and received other funding totalling £3,000 to date, from The Soutar Foundation and the Perth Kinnoull Rotary Club.

Consideration

- 2.8 It is considered that a grant of £420 is consistent with Criteria 9.6 (capped at £7 per individual, per meal)

PKAVS Mental Health & Wellbeing Hub (MHWH)

- 2.9 The MHWH based in the 'The Walled Garden' & 'Wisecraft' supports residents, aged 16 and over, who are experiencing poor mental health and wellbeing. This is estimated to be approx. 300 people: just over 50% from the Perth area itself. Their aim is to support the recovery journey through a range of activities, increasing resilience, confidence and skills and also provide opportunities to use creative art, gardening, physical/nutritional activities, woodworking, and food preparation. This grant application will support the launch of "Speak Over Stigma" - a new project to help celebrate the success of securing the new art studio in 'The Walled Garden' (funded by PKC, The Gannochy Trust and National Lottery). The project is also designed to address the stigma surrounding mental health, and to help create a sense of community for those visiting/accessing the service. They would like to make a short film based on client experience of mental wellness or illness. Funding will allow the purchase of materials and equipment required for the making of the film. Equipment acquired will also aid future projects and help to adapt to a more digital world, post COVID. Capturing these stories through different art forms will support in talking about mental health in a more visually, creative way.

Client works would normally be showcased with a Panto and/or exhibition but due to COVID these methods are not currently accessible. A group of volunteers are already assisting in the art studio, engaging and supporting clients through their recovery. At the end of the project, there will be feedback sheets & questionnaires to gauge success, impact and numbers. The total project costs were estimated to be £1,300.04. £500 was received from the Perth Rotary Club, leaving the remainder as detailed below, equating to just over 61% contribution:

Specific Items	Basis of Costings	Amount (£)
Editing Software	Quote(s)	£278.04
Digital Equipment		£257.00
Marketing materials		£40.00
Project resources and materials, e.g., pens, paper, paint, props		£125.00
Woodwork items (supported by in-house maintenance)		£100.00
Total		£800.04

Consideration

- 2.10 In line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

Past Funding

Year	Amount	Criteria	Project
2020/21	£18,786	Capital	Garden Room
2019/20	£1,329		Open Studios & End of Year Production
2018/19	£253		Open Studios

Perth & District Badminton Association

- 2.11 An application for £3,000 has been received from Perth & District Badminton Association, seeking support to hold the Scottish National Badminton Championship in 2022. The event will see Scotland's top badminton players compete against each other for national titles. Having this event in Perth will enable local clubs, schools and residents to see Scotland's top players in action and the Association intends to re-run a mixed gender, under 11's event in conjunction with the Championship to allow local children to participate too. There are also plans to work with Perth College UHI, giving students the opportunity to attend the event to gain some practical experience in sports journalism. It is also likely that there will also be a coaching education element to the event, to help develop more local coaches. The event is expected to bring people into Perth between 4 - 6 February 2022 and they estimate that 470 people from Perth will come and 830 from out-with. The event has support secured from Bell's Sport Centre and some other local businesses and is expected to cost just under £15,750 which includes the following projections:

Specific Items	Amount (£)
Venue & Equipment inc. shuttlecocks	£5,459.00
Accommodation, Catering, Officials Travel	£4,751.00
Prize fund & Ceremonials	£4,000.00
Physiotherapy Services	£236.90
Marketing	£1,000.00
Miscellaneous	£300.00
Total Expenditure	£15,746.90

2.12 The Association will be charging an entry fee for the event, along with Gate Fees and should raise approx. £3,500. Yonex Sponsorship of £1,500 is secured and another £1,500 from PKC Events. Any deficit will be funded through Badminton Scotland but without this grant, the deficit would be much more significant. The grant would also ensure that Perth continues to see the benefits of hosting the annual tournament, now in its 21st year. The Championship will hopefully be open to spectators from Perth and beyond, provide a stage for Scotland's top badminton players to compete, and offer other opportunities such as the junior event to encourage wider participation in badminton. COVID-19 had unfortunately limited the opportunities for playing and spectating and it has placed additional pressure on finances.

Year	Amount	Criteria	Project
2020/21	£3,000	9.2	COVID – Event cancelled
2019/20	£3,000	9.2	Scottish National Badminton Championship
2018/19	£3,000	9.2	Scottish National Badminton Championship

Consideration

2.13 It is considered that a grant of up to £3,000 is consistent with criteria 9.2(b).

Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland (CBCS)

2.14 This grant application is for Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland (CBCS). They would like to purchase some new resources for use in their Perth offices now that they can re-commence meeting with clients on a face-to-face basis. The chairs will be 'easy-clean' to ensure safety is adhered to between clients and will be of a quality to hold a life cycle of approx. 5 years. CBCS are a charity and offer support to people of all ages going through bereavement, regardless of the nature of the death. Specially trained volunteers provide a range of support services designed to help people aged from 5 to 95 years to build resilience and improve health and wellbeing during grief. 75% of clients learn of CBCS through their local Perth GPs and this equates to 330 people. This demonstrates the service is well integrated into Perth's local health services, sessions are free of charge to clients, and this ensures bereavement support is always accessible.

Costs illustrated below:

Specific Items	Basis of Costings	Amount (£)
4 x IKEA POÄNG Armchair (oak veneer)	Quote	£600
Delivery Charge		£19
Total		£619

2.15 The applicant has not previously benefited from the fund.

Consideration

2.16 In line with criteria 9.8, the Committee is asked to consider the request and determine the level of any grant to be awarded.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider and approve the recommendations in the report.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Communities)	10 September 2021

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan

- 1.1 The proposals will contribute to the Community Plan's aim of safe, healthy and inclusive communities and the outcome of communities will have improved quality of life. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Perth Common Good Fund's criteria for financial assistance.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals will contribute to the Corporate Plan's objectives of developing educated, responsible, and informed citizens and the outcome of people are ready for life and work. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Perth Common Good Fund's criteria.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1. The Head of Finance has been consulted and has indicated agreement with the proposals. The recommendations contained within this report will be funded from the 2021/22 Financial Assistance budget.

Workforce

2.2 N/A.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 N/A.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties. The Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to this report can be viewed clicking [here](#).

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.3 The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.4 N/A.

Legal and Governance

3.5 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted.

Risk

3.6 N/A.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted.

External

4.2 N/A.

5. Communication

5.1 N/A.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 Perth Common Good Application papers.

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Perth City Common Good Fund Criteria.