

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**3 APRIL 2017**

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT APPLICATION**

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

**1. iSightCornwall (formerly Cornwall Blind Association)**

1.1 The Town Council has received a request for grant funding from iSightCornwall (formerly the Cornwall Blind Association) which is seeking financial assistance from the Town Council towards its “Outlook” Community Outreach project.

1.2 iSightCornwall is an independent charity that aims to improve the lives of blind and visually impaired people in Cornwall. There are currently 22,000 people in Cornwall who are blind or partially sighted.

1.3 The charity has 250 active volunteers without whom it could not run its services and who support its small team. The charity is totally dependent on charitable donations.

1.4 Currently there are 36 residents within the parish who are affected by visual impairment. NHS data suggests that there are further 47 residents living with significant sight loss. The award of a grant would enable the charity to commit significant time to support these residents by providing home visits and free aids to help maintain their independence and provide subsidised guide-trained drivers and transport to drop-in events and clubs. This would be specific to St Just-in-Penwith.

1.5 The majority of the people that the charity supports are over 65, living on their own, on low incomes with little or no social interaction.

1.6 Services have been developed on feedback from users of the services. This is not a one-off project but continues to build on expertise. Of those using the service in West Cornwall 45% have stated that “Access to Services” as a significant barrier to maintaining or improving their level of wellbeing and independence.

1.7 The charity has requested a grant of £200.00. The annual budget for Outlook community services in West Cornwall is £30,152 and the charity is requesting the grant by way of a contribution to the £5,000 shortfall for 2017 – 18.

1.8 The Town Council has previously made the following grant awards to the charity: -

- £250.00            October 2012
- £200.00            January 2012
- £200.00            October 2009

1.9 The charity has provided financial information to 31 March 2016 and full details can be provided at the meeting.

## 2. Nancherrow Project

2.1 The Town Council has received a request for financial assistance from the Nancherrow Project towards the cost of repairs to the internal fabric and windows.

2.2 A financial request of £1600 has been made for the replacement of two window sashes with sealed double glazed units. One laminated internal window pane, one external door wired glass pane and one 2.5KW night store heater. One external galvanised gate and posts to safely enclose the external area and fitting.

2.3 The refurbishment is needed to maintain the building for ongoing provision of youth and music services for the young people of St Just and surrounding area.

2.4 The project is of broad community benefit – open to young people from age 10 to 19 years.

2.5 A major funding application is currently being complied for ongoing provision of youth services.

2.6 The project has submitted accounts which show a current balance of £15,015.52 (£15,000 restricted for wages) and deposit account balance of £322.68.

2.7 In addition to the £1,000 annual grant award the Town Council agreed to make to the project over a three-year period (2009 – 2011), the Council has also made the following grant awards to the Nancherrow Project: -

- £3,000.00 Feb 2015
- £1,000.00 Jul 2008
- £500.00 Feb 2007
- £300.00 Apr 2005
- £300.00 Aug 2004
- £100.00 Jan 2000

## 3. Remaining Budget Provision in 2017 / 2018

3.1 There is currently £17,500 remaining in the 2017 / 2018 budget for grant applications.

4. The Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Background papers: Applications submitted 27 March 2017.