

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

27 FEBRUARY 2012

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1. The Town Council has received a number of requests for financial assistance as set out below

West Penwith Community Bus Association

2. You will recall that consideration of this request was deferred at the last meeting pending the receipt of their latest audited accounts. These have now been received and the Town Clerk will provide additional information at the meeting.
3. The West Penwith Community Bus Association (WPCBA) has been operating for 24 years and provides transport services to the local community, where public transport is unable to meet specific needs. Currently there are four mini-buses operating, three of which are wheelchair accessible. A dial-a-ride demand service is provided with flexible pick up and drop off points. The service covers nine villages in the West Penwith area, with a large percentage of the passengers being the elderly and disabled.
4. WPCBA is run on a voluntary basis and is a non-profit making organisation. Most of the income comes from concessionary fares, student travel cards and fixed payments to provide certain services. Cornwall Council has not increased any of these payments rates in the last three years, whereas costs have escalated (fuel costs have increased by 18% and insurance by 20%), with no way of increasing income the WPCBA is finding it increasingly difficult to continue operating. A review of the payment system for the whole of Cornwall is currently under review, the outcome of which should be known by the new financial year. WPCBA would welcome any financial assistance from the Town Council to help towards its annual running costs.
5. The Town Council has made the following previous financial contribution to WPCBA:-
 - £25.00 Sept 2002

St Just & District Camera Club

6. The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from the St Just & District Camera Club to enable the club to purchase studio lighting to be able to educate its members on how best to use studio lighting for portraiture and still life photography.
7. The club was formed in 2008 and meets in the Age Concern premises on a fortnightly basis. It has 30 members who pay an annual subscription of £10.00 and a £1.00 on club nights. The club is administered by a committee and has a formal constitution (details of which have been provided by way of supporting documentation).

8. The total cost of the equipment that they wish to purchase is £329.95, details of which have been provided.
9. The Town Council has made no previous financial awards to the club
10. The Camera Club has also submitted a copy of its most recently audited accounts.

St Just Football Club

11. The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from the St Just Football Club towards the cost of trip to Huelgoat, Brittany for the youth football team, as part of the twinning between St Just and Huelgoat. The aim of the trip is to forge closer links between the two teams.
12. The trip is to take place in early June, departing on 4 June for 3 /4 days during the half term.
13. The club has requested a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of the hire of a minibus and ferry travel. It is envisaged that there will be a return trip to St Just in 2013.
14. The Town Council has made the following previous financial awards to the club:-
 - Nov 2010 £500.00
 - Jan 2010 £1,000.00
 - Oct 2007 £500.00
15. The Club has been asked to submit details of its latest audited accounts which it is hoped will be available for the Town Council meeting.

Pendeen Rovers AFC

16. The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from Pendeen Rovers AFC in respect of repairs required to its minibus for its annual MOT which it is anticipated will be in the region of £2,000.00. Team players have difficulty in attending matches without the assistance of the minibus, and the minibus is needed to ensure the continuance of the club.
17. The club currently has £250.00 in its bank account and has supplied accounts for the 2010 / 2011 season.
18. The Town Council has made the following previous financial awards to the club:-
 - Dec 2010 £1,000.00
 - Oct 2007 £300.00
 - Mar 2005 £600.00
 - Apr 2001 £50.00

Cruse Bereavement Care

19. The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from Cruse Bereavement Care in respect of the support, advice and information service it provides to children, young people and adults in times of bereavement.

20. Cruse provides trained bereavement volunteers who offer face-to-face support and practical advice throughout the county. In 2011, additional groups were established in Redruth/Camborne and Bude areas, making a total of seven groups across Cornwall.

21. The organisation operates solely on donations and grants to fund the services which are mainly provided by volunteers.

22. The Town Council has made the following previous financial awards to Cruse:-

- Mar 2007 £100.00
- Feb 2006 £50.00
- Dec 2004 £50.00
- Dec 2002 £50.00
- Aug 2001 £25.00

23. There is currently £3,223.00 remaining in the 2011 / 2012 budget for grant applications.

24. The Town Council's instructions on each of these requests are sought.

Elaine Baker
Town Clerk

Background papers: Letters dated 8,16, 21 & 23 February 2012.