

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**28 MAY 2013**

**APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

**1. Landsend Astronomers**

- 1.1 The Town Council has received a request for grant funding from Landsend Astronomers.
- 1.2 The association operates the Lands End Solar Observatory which also comprises a multi-wavelength solar observatory for monitoring solar activity, and for educational / research purposes.
- 1.3 Data is streamed from many observatories and satellites, as well as carrying out optical observations and operating its own radio telescopes.
- 1.4 A grant of £900.00 has been requested to purchase a Hydrogen Alpha Solar telescope. This is a highly specialised, research-grade telescope which allows direct observation of the solar atmosphere.
- 1.5 The organisation's core values include education and equality of access to astronomy for all in the community. Hydrogen Alpha solar observing is not usually accessible to non-professional observers, and so its benefit for education is huge. The organisation works closely with St Just Primary School and hopes to form links with other schools in the area, and the availability of this telescope will be a huge benefit in teaching solar astronomy to students.
- 1.6 Landsend Astronomers is a non-profit making unincorporated association working to provide access to astronomy for local people. At present there are six active members in the St Just area as the group covers the whole of West Cornwall. However, the group is fully engaged with the St Just Primary School, with plans to extend this to Cape Cornwall School. A long term aim is to establish a community centre for astronomy.
- 1.7 The association has recently been awarded a grant of £918 by the Co-operative Community Fund for the purchase of equipment to be used with local schools. An application has also been made to the Lottery People's Millions for £20,000 to help St Just Primary School to establish its own astronomy club and community centre for astronomy.
- 1.8 The club has provided a copy of its income and expenditure to 31 December 2012 which shows a profit of £209.41, and a bank balance of £142.00 as at April 2013.
- 1.9 The Town Council has made no previous grant awards to the association.

## 2. St Just in Bloom

2.1 The Town Council has also received a request for grant funding from the St Just in Bloom group towards its planting scheme for St Just in Bloom 2013.

2.2 The group's aim is to enhance the town and to compete in the South West in Bloom competition, judging for which takes place in July. In order to achieve this, the group needs to replace, maintain and add planters, to clean and re-stain the public seating and repaint the street lighting columns. Approximately, 1500 plants are required.

2.3 A grant of £800.00 has been requested which will be used to buy materials and plants and to produce leaflets for the Town Garden Competition. In addition, the group has to purchase Public Liability insurance and provide hospitality for the visiting judges from the S W in Bloom competition.

2.4 The work of the group helps to maintain a clean and tidy town and is an added tourist attraction during the summer period. All age groups are involved in the group.

2.5 The group is a non-profit making organisation and a copy of their 2013 accounts have been supplied which shows a balance as at 7 May 2013 of £963.17. The group has also received £735.00 of funding from the Co-operative Group which has been used to purchase a polytunnel.

2.6 The Town Council has made the following Awards to the group

• May 2012	£1,000.00
• May 2011	£2,000.00
• May 2010	£1,500.00
• April 2009	£1,000.00
• April 2008	£1,000.00
• June 2007	£750.00
• April 2006	£500.00
• March 2005	£500.00
• Jan 2004	£250.00

3. The Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Background papers: Applications submitted 1& 20 May 2013