

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

17 NOVEMBER 2014

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT APPLICATION

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1. Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust

1.1 The Town Council has received an application for grant funding from the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust by way of a contribution towards its annual running costs. The Air Ambulance flies 365 days, approximately 800 rescue missions a year, recently reaching its 24,500th mission, making it the busiest single helicopter in the South West.

1.2 Cornwall is particularly dependent on the Air Ambulance due to the amount of coastline, often inaccessible roads etc. The Trust receives no Central Government funding towards running costs, and from December 2014 there will be two helicopters serving the county. In addition, from early 2015 changes in aviation law will come into force allowing night flying and the intention is to fly 12 hours a day for 365 days a year which will increase running costs. It currently costs £2.5m per annum to keep a helicopter in operation.

1.3 The grant will go towards the running costs; fuel, maintenance and specialist life-saving equipment. The Air Ambulance serves the whole of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

1.4 The Air Ambulance serves the whole community of Cornwall, often attending patients in St Just and Pendeen.

1.5 The Air Ambulance Trust has not indicated a specific amount grant but has approached all other local town and parish councils across Cornwall. The Trust is dependent on donations from the community to keep the service operational.

1.6 The Town Council has made the following previous awards to the Air Ambulance Trust:-

- £1,000 Dec 2013
- £600.00 Jan 2013
- £500.00 Jan 2012
- £500.00 Sept 2010
- £100.00 Sept 2009
- £500.00 Jan 2007

2. The Town Council currently has £7,400.00 remaining in this year's budget and the Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker
Town Clerk

Background paper: Application received 30 October 2014.