

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**12 MARCH 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

**2. West Penwith Community Bus Association**

2.1 You will recall that consideration of this request was deferred at the last meeting pending the receipt of their full audited accounts. These have now been received and a copy of the accounts is attached for members of the Town Council only.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 The Town Council has made the following previous financial contribution to WPCBA:-

- £25.00 Sept 2002

**3. St Just Amateur Boxing Club**

3.1 The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from the St Just Amateur Boxing Club for a portable boxing ring.

3.2 The club provides fitness, training and discipline to a growing number of children and teenagers in the local area, and in the past 10 years has become a focal point for engaging with the local youth and helps to keep them "off the streets" in an area where there are few other suitable facilities and diversions.

3.3 The Club training premises are located in the theatre area of the former Town Hall, which must be kept clear at other times for use by other groups and organisations. The existing full sized boxing ring is not portable and takes too long to erect and dismantle for use during the limited regular training sessions.

3.4 Therefore, to maintain the interest of young members during training periods funding for a portable boxing ring which can be easily assembled and dismantled is being sought.

3.5 A quotation for suitable equipment has been obtained at a cost of £3,000, but unfortunately the club does not have sufficient funds to purchase the equipment. Other fundraising activities are also being considered to raise the amount required to purchase a new ring.

3.6 The club has supplied details of their current bank account, details of which will be provided by the Town Clerk at the meeting.

3.7 The Town Council has made the following previous award to the boxing club:-

- Jul 2009 £600.00

#### **4. St Just Midsummer Committee**

4.1 The Town Council has also received a request for financial assistance from the St Just Midsummer Committee towards the costs of organising this year's parade on 9 June 2012.

4.2 The Committee wishes to purchase new crockery. The event is normally funded by fundraising on the day but due to the current financial climate the committee is seeking additional financial assistance by way of a grant of £300.00 as their existing funds are limited.

4.3 The Town Council has made the following previous financial contributions:-

- Aug 2008 £500.00
- May 2005 £300.00
- Aug 2001 £50.00

4.4 The Committee has been asked to provide details of their current bank account statements which will be presented at the meeting.

#### **5. Remaining Budget Provision in 2011 / 2102**

5.1 There is currently £1,333.00 remaining in the 2011 / 2012 budget for grant applications.

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

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Background papers: Letters dated 16 & 23 February 2012.