

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

24 JUNE 2013

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANT APPLICATIONS

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1. Landsend Astronomers

- 1.1 The Town Council will recall that the grant funding application from Landsend Astronomers was deferred from the meeting on 28 May 2013 pending further information from the group on its work, and particularly its involvement with local schools. A representative from the group will be attending the meeting to provide the additional information.
- 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. The Town Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker
Town Clerk

Background papers: Applications submitted 18 May 2013