
Report To: Full Council
Date: 29 September 2025**Contact Officer: Paula Harrison****Subject: Grants Report**

1. Grants Background

1.1 The Parish Council has an annual budget of £10,000 to support community projects. This funding is distributed through two rounds to enable projects to come forward at different times of the year.

1.2 In Round One: West Swindon Parish Council awarded the following:

- Best be a better you £1,920.00
- West Swindon First Responders £633.38

The amount remaining is £7,446.62

2. Round Two Applications

2.1 The following applications have been received, full copies of the applications have been circulated:

Applications

West Swindon Family Project	£2,991.00	Family sessions
West Swindon Family Project	£2,802.00	Youth sessions
Swindon Hardship Fund	£1,000.00	Financial support
The Hub Toothill	£2,800.00	Replacement Door
Roger Ogle Angela Atkinson	£2,400.00	App/website
Wiltshire Treehouse	£1,000.00	Bereavement training
Hazelwood Academy	£925.00	Playground equipment
	£13,918.00	

West Swindon Family Project

This organisation has received repeat funding on annual basis. There are two awards, one for the Monday youth club session totalling £2802.00 and one for family support sessions totalling £2991.00. This funding is for repeat funding for a further 12 months. The Council should consider whether this becomes a core funded project and what steps the organisation has taken to secure funding from other sources.

Swindon Hardship Fund

This organisation is making its third application for funding of £1,000. Previous beneficiaries of the Hardship Fund have financial support for the purchase of uniform and home goods. Postcode detail is captured but is not widespread across the Parish. The Council should consider the challenges of funding that is directly to supporting a small

number of individuals and whether the Parish Council is the appropriate resource for this. Eg: Swindon Borough Council Hardship Fund.

The Hub, Toothill

This organisation is making a third application for funding. Previous awards have been £3702 for a till operating system and £10,000 towards a kitchen. This application is for a replacement door that has been identified as faulty and in need of replacement to create a safe and secure premises. The organisation has suffered many setbacks but is hopeful that there will be a form of opening of the premises by Christmas 2025. They have provided quotes and information relating to building control. During previous grant considerations, the Parish Council has raised concerns about funding premises that plans to sell alcohol alongside the viability of the project. In response to this Local Trust have appointed a CEO to give direct support and direction to the project. The Council should consider whether this project is heading towards a sustainable future given the reliance on a small number of volunteers/trustees, and the lack of established funding for day to day operating costs.

Roger Ogle/Angela Atkinson

This application focuses on raising awareness of West Swindon's sculpture and art trail through the development of Huntly an app and an accompanying website. This would be similar to the Council's walking map whereby app users can find and learn about these assets. The Council does not fund individuals so this will need consideration on the mechanism and accountability for delivery. The Council should consider the value of investing in an app, its likely popularity/use, how accessible or flexible the creation will be to adopt new and future works and how it will work in practice. The Council could commit to taking this on as a project itself and could link the Engagement Officer to this focus on West Swindon's public art trail.

Wiltshire Treehouse

This charitable organisation is seeking to support West Swindon professionals with additional targeted training to support children and families in bereavement. The organisation is committed to ensuring that training places are allocated to only professionals working with West Swindon residents and that all funding is fully utilised. Training will be delivered at Westlea School premises or in another West Swindon location. The Council has not funded professional development training in previous rounds but may consider the long term and extended reach of benefit to local families.

Hazelwood Academy

This school has applied for funding to improve play ground equipment with a range of products specified such as large easels/seating. The school identifies a shortfall in its funding for these types of improvements. The Council has not directly funded school improvements in the past but has supported school PTA initiatives. The Council should consider the precedent of this type of grant funding and the fairness in allocating funding to one school.

2. Financial Considerations

- 2.1 The Parish Council has an annual budget of £10,000 to support community projects. There is £7,446.62 remaining with a total of £13,918 requested. Council should considered how best to distribute the remaining grant pot given that it is

oversubscribed. It may be that some of the applications could be delivered at a future date and/or could be supported to seek alternative options for funding or be forwarded to a future grant round.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Councillors consider the content set out in this report and advises the Clerk accordingly.