

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 2019

Item 15. Applications from local organisations for a council grant.

Introduction

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to “incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.....”. Section 137 was amended by the **Local Government and Housing Act 1989 s 36** so that any expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit to the community. The amount for 2019/20 is £8.12 per elector on April 1st 2019. The Parish of Copythorne has circa 2200 electors. Any expenditure under section 137 must be recorded in the minutes and identified as such in the accounts.

Included within the 2019/20 Precept there is the sum of £250 in respect of small grants to be awarded by the Parish Council to support the work of local organisations.

Over the last few months I have received two applications the details of which are set out below:-

Application 1- New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau (NFCAB)

NFCAB are seeking a non-specific sum to support their work across the New Forest.

In support of their application they have included two “Ward Dashboards” giving details of the number of local residents within the two New Forest District Council wards that Copythorne North and Copythorne South form part of. The details on the “Ward Dashboards” would suggest that circa 50 across the Parish of Copythorne have been assisted in the past year. A copy of their latest annual accounts has also been supplied.

HISTORY – In September 2018 an application was received from NFCAB that had been incomplete in terms of information required by the Council. It was unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Application 2 = New Forest Disability Information Service (NFDIS)

NFDIS are seeking a non-specific sum to support their work across the New Forest. They have though explained that the cost of a home visit by one of their team costs £65.

In support of their application they have included details of the number of Copythorne Parish residents that they have helped in each of their last three financial years. Those numbers are:-

2016/17	3 (Winsor 1, Copythorne 2)
2017/18	4 (Cadnam 2, Copythorne, 1, Bartley 1)
2018/19	3 (Winsor 1, Copythorne 2)

A copy of their latest annual accounts has also been received.

HISTORY – In September 2018 an application was received from NFDIS for a grant to help fund a lift for access to their new offices. Cllr Goodwin reminded colleagues that Council Policy had been to primarily support local charities within the parish. It was unanimously agreed to refuse the application. (It would appear that at that time their outreach work within the Parish had not been made clear.

Summary

Councillors are invited to consider the merits of the above applications, decide whether or not they wish to support either or both of the requests and if so to agree on a grant (subject to the overall limit within the precept).

DAVID RIGBY, Clerk/R F O