

## **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH 2020**

### **Item 12. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 budget was a sum of £250 in respect of small grants to be awarded by the Parish Council to support the work of local organisations. At our September 2019 meeting it was agreed that £150 of this be awarded to New Forest Disability Information Service and that a decision on whether to award a grant to New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau be deferred until the New Year and considered against any other applications received. So we have £100 still to award.

Since September, I have received one further applications.

Details of the two applications to be considered 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 – Victim Support Hampshire & IoW (VS)**

VS are seeking a non-specific sum to support their work with victims of crime.

In support of their application they have provided details of the type of support they provide and indicated that on average they support some 23 Copythorne residents a year. As an example of what a grant would cover they have suggested (amongst other things) that £100 could purchase 20 fake CCTV cameras; 62 window alarms; 42 door handle alarms; or 55 segment timers all of which can help to make people feel safer in their homes. A copy of the latest annual accounts for the national charity of which they are a part has also been received.

HISTORY – In March 2019 the Council awarded VS a grant of £150.

#### **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 the level of grant awarded (subject to the £100 remaining in the 2019/20 Council budget).

**DAVID RIGBY, Clerk/R F O**