



REPORT TO BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 21st February 2017

COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION– MINTLAW & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Committee is requested to –

(a) consider an award of £361.00 to Mintlaw & District Community Council on behalf of Mintlaw Academy

2. Background/Discussion

- 2.1 A total of £7,612 was made available to the Buchan area for disbursement to Community Councils for administration and project grants for the financial year 2016/2017.
- 2.2 The Committee agreed, on 19th April, 2016 (Item 16), that the administration grant paid to each Community Council would be £425 and that an additional £35 would be paid to cover the cost of registration under the Data Protection Act. It was further agreed that the remaining balance of £3,472 would be made available for project grants of up to £1,000 or 80% of the total cost, whichever is the lesser.
- 2.3 The Committee further agreed, on 31st May 2016, (Item 14) to award £720 to Cruden Community Council, on behalf of Cruden Bay Horticultural Society, for the replacement of planters. On 21st June, 2016, (Item 14) the Committee approved a further three awards; £126 to Mintlaw and District Community Council for Duck Pond Signs, £729 to Longside Community Council for a Notice Board and a Park Bench and £500 to Buchan East Community Council towards a defibrillator at St Fergus Village Hall. On 29th July, 2016 (Item 7) the Committee approved an award of £112 to Mintlaw and District Community Council for a dog waste bag dispenser, leaving a balance of £1,309. Finally, on 29th November (Item 9) the Committee approved an award of £948 to Cruden Community Council on behalf of the Hatton Public Hall to relocate the War Memorial.
- 2.4 Mintlaw & District Community Council have submitted an application on behalf of Mintlaw Academy for funding towards their therapeutic garden project which is being developed in the grounds of the Academy. The plans are in place and the group is about to lay out the design on the ground.

- 2.5 The project will involve a team of teachers, pupils, local businesses and members of the community. An area has been fenced off to create a garden with therapeutic features with various paths leading to different areas such as a reflective shelter, sensory flowers and plants, bird feeders and a water feature. The long term aim is to include eco features such as solar panels and perhaps some form of wind turbine. The creation of the garden will also serve as an educational resource, involving pupils in its delivery which will help them develop skills for life and employment as well as earning additional qualifications such as ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) John Muir Award and personal Achievement awards. There will be opportunities for the development of many other learning projects. It will also serve a wider purpose as an outdoor learning space for all classes including a teambuilding area for staff and pupils, gardens for pupils to work on and eco projects to develop. Other curricular areas will be involved with the garden, such as classes from Connexions (science), Life skills, Enhanced Learning Centre, and SEBD (Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties a term that is associated with children who are both troubled and troubling) and Technical subjects.
- 2.6 Once complete, it is proposed to make the garden available for primary school children who will find the space beneficial as an extra resource for learning about wildlife, eco principles and mental health awareness.
- 2.7 The total cost of the project is estimated at £20,000. Funding applications have been submitted to the Lottery and TESCO. The PTA is supportive of the project and local sponsorship is also being sought.
- 2.8 A grant of £300.19 is requested towards the project. This is to cover the purchase of materials and equipment, including sand, timber, spades, shovels and a wheelbarrow. These tools are required to get the project started and allow the group to lay out the design on the ground. As the remaining balance in the Community Council project grant budget is £361.00, due to one of the grants awarded in June coming in under the estimated cost by £24, it is requested that the award be increased to this amount, allowing the budget to be fully utilised before the end of the financial year.
- 2.9 The proposals support Priority 1 “Empowered Communities” in the Buchan Community Plan 2016-2019 under the actions (a) to increase opportunities for participation which will help the less engaged members of the community develop skills and improve health and wellbeing as well as increasing participation in community life and (b) support the delivery of environmental projects and activities which have been identified by our communities and help promote them.

- 2.10 The continuation of a project grant scheme will be of benefit to the area in allowing community sponsored works to proceed. In this particular case the main aims are to support and encourage active lifestyles, volunteering and improvement of the environment.
- 2.11 The grant scheme is in line with Council policy and past practice of the Area Committee.
- 2.12 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer from Business Services have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the report.

3. Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance enable the Committee to consider applications for and approve the award of grants to Community Councils within the approved budget under 3.3 of Section B.

4. Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report does not propose any change to previous allocation arrangements. There will be a positive impact of the grant on the school pupils, teachers and volunteers who will be involved in the project.
- 4.2 There are no staffing implications arising from this report. Supporting the work of Community Councils helps to sustain communities within Buchan.
- 4.3 The Community Council budget is shown on budget page 62, line 15. The funding scheme proposed is based on the agreed £62,000 budget and therefore no additional financial or staffing implications arise as a result of this report.
- 4.4 If the grant is approved the budget will have been fully utilised.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report by Maureen Stephen
31 January 2017

