

PERTH COMMON GOOD FUND COMMITTEE

25 February 2015

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Report by Executive Director (Environment)

The report asks Perth Common Good Fund Committee to consider applications for financial assistance.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Perth and Kinross Council owns land and property which forms part of the common good of the former burghs in Perth & Kinross and has a statutory duty in terms of section 15 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 to administer this land and property “having regard to the interests of the inhabitants” of those former burghs. This duty also applies to the administration of the associated common good funds.
- 1.2 The Common Good Funds have traditionally demonstrated their support to local residents and organisations by distributing grant. These grant awards allow individuals and local organisations to carry out a wide range of community based activities. For each application, the level of previous grant awarded is listed, but variances between years could be due to the numbers of participants. Retrospective applications are not accepted. However, if an application is received before the activities take place and cannot be considered at the following meeting because the papers have already been issued, the application will be considered at the next meeting even if the activities have taken place between meetings. Therefore the Committee decision will only be known after the activities have taken place, and if the grant is not awarded, the applicant will have to fund the activities from its own funds.

2. PROPOSALS

Vale of Atholl Pipers Association (Pipe Band)

- 2.1 An application has been received from the Vale of Atholl Pipers Association (based at Tulloch Institute where they meet at least twice per week) seeking a grant towards the cost of purchasing equipment. The project will deliver workshops to 6 schools within Perth city. The total costs amount to £20,238 which includes Chanters, Drum pads and sticks, sets of bagpipes and tuition books. It also includes tuition and project management which cannot be claimed. The applicant has applied for £5,270. The Association has not benefitted from the Fund in the last 3 years. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £3,579 (which is 50% of the claimable expenses) in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). The grant will contribute to promote cultural activities and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.2 Vale of Atholl Pipers Association be awarded a grant of £3,579 towards the costs of equipment.

Perth Academy

- 2.3 An application has been received from Perth Academy seeking a grant towards the costs of sending 4 pupils (who due to financial circumstances would be unable to participate) to 1st XV Canada Rugby Tour (Ontario) 2015 from 12 June to 27 June. They will play 5 rugby matches against Canadian school and Club sides (including 2 schools that have previously visited Perth Academy). The total costs for the trip amount to £65,000. The applicant has applied for £300 for each of the identified pupils. The applicant benefitted from the Fund in 2012/13 (£900), 2013/14 (£900) and in 2014/15 (£1,160). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £1,200 (£300 for each pupil) in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to promote learning and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.4 Perth Academy be awarded a grant of £1,200 (£300 for each pupil) towards the costs of sending 4 pupils on a trip to Canada.

Perth for Churches Together (PACT)

- 2.5 An application was received before Christmas from the Perth for Churches Together (PACT) seeking a grant towards the cost of their Christmas Lantern and Nativity Event on Sunday 7 December 2014. The total costs for the event amount to £1,816 and proof of expenditure was provided. The applicant is requesting the full amount. The organisation has not benefitted from the Fund in the last 3 years. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £908 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 10). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.6 Perth for Churches Together (PACT) be awarded a grant of £908 towards the costs of their Christmas Nativity Event. The applicant will be advised that any future application must be submitted in time for consideration by the Perth Common Good Committee prior to the event taking place, otherwise it will be rejected automatically.

Perth High School Pupil

- 2.7 An application has been received from a Perth High School Pupil seeking a grant towards the cost of a twelve month overseas volunteering placement by Project Trust to Cambodia from September 2015 – September 2016. The total costs amount to £5,650. The applicant has never benefitted from the Fund. It is recommended to award a grant of £400 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 8). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.8 Perth High School Pupil be awarded a grant of £400 towards the costs of their volunteer placement to Cambodia.

Perth Doo'cot Cricket Club

- 2.9 An application has been received from Perth Doo'cot Cricket Club seeking a grant towards the cost of purchasing additional equipment for the junior development section. In 2014 they had 70 paid up members with over 100 children attending sessions over the course of the season. The total costs amount to £3,094. The applicant has not benefitted from the Fund within the last 3 years. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £1,547 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4). The grant will contribute to promote leisure and sporting activities and safety.

Recommendation

- 2.10 Perth Doo'cot Cricket Club be awarded £1,547 towards the costs of purchasing equipment.

J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust

- 2.11 An application has been received from the J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust seeking a grant towards their Annual Award. The Trust promotes the Arts in Perth and as a centre for the arts as well as the works of J D Fergusson. It also supports and encourages promising artists of all ages. There is an average of 150 applications for the Trust's annual Awards. The work of the successful candidate will be promoted and presented at an exhibition in the J D Fergusson Gallery. Both Perth and the J D Fergusson Trust benefit from press coverage as applications for the award are widely publicised in specialist art magazines. The total costs are £5,750 (£4,750 for the Award and £1,000 Judging Panel Administration). The applicant is requesting £2,000. The applicant has benefitted from the Fund in 2011/12 £2,000, 2012/13 £2,000 and in 2013/14 £2,000. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £2,000 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 3). The grant will promote Perth City and the Arts.

Recommendation

- 2.12 J D Fergusson Arts Awards Trust be awarded a grant of £2,000 towards the costs of the Annual Awards.

Wednesday Tea Dance

- 2.13 An application from the Perth-based Wednesday Tea Dance Group was received before Christmas but after the deadline for reports to the December Common Good Committee. The Group is seeking a grant towards the costs of their post-Christmas Party on 14 January 2015. The total costs for 40 members amounts to £602. The applicant is requesting £301 and proof of expenditure has been submitted. The organisation has benefitted from the Fund in 2011/12 (£280), 2012/2013 (£263) and in 2013/14 (£280). It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £280 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 10). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.14 The Wednesday Tea Dance Group be awarded £280 towards the costs of their post-Christmas party. The applicant will be advised that any future application must be submitted in time for consideration by the Perth Common Good Committee prior to the event taking place, otherwise it will be rejected automatically.

Perth Student

- 2.15 An application has been received from a Perth Student seeking a grant towards attending 2 residential courses at the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain in April and August. The total costs amount to £840. The applicant has applied for £540. The applicant benefitted from the Fund in 2013/14 (£100). It is recommended to award a grant of £100 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 9). If the grant is not awarded, the applicant will have to fund the activities from their own fund. The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.16 Perth Student be awarded a grant of £100 towards attending the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain courses.

Perth Tennis Club

- 2.17 An application has been received from Perth Tennis Club seeking a grant towards major renovations. The work is to be done over 3 Phases – Phase 1, construction of 4 new polymeric courts (£93,581), -Phase 2, refurbishment of Clubhouse and replacement boiler (£45,844) and Phase 3, construction of Mini Tennis Courts/ Kids Zone (£50,000). The total costs amount to £189,425. The Tennis Club is contributing £50,000 towards the project. Applications for financial assistance made to Sita Trust (£52,776), Robertson Trust (£10,000) and the Gannochy Trust (£25,000) a total £87,776 have been successful. Request to Sports Scotland for £23,000 is still pending. If the request to Sports Scotland is successful then this would leave the Club with a balance of £28,649 to be funded. The applicant has applied for £15,000. The Council's Financial Assistance budget will be asked to give consideration to the project in the new financial year. The applicant has not benefitted from the Fund within the last 3 years. The use of the tennis courts is open to the public and not restricted to members only. It is recommended to award a grant of £14,324.50 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 5). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.18 Subject to the project being fully funded an award of £14,324.50 be made to Perth Tennis Club towards the cost of major renovation works.

Be Yourself

- 2.19 An application has been received from Be Yourself (based at Letham Community Centre promoting the position and importance of women in a multicultural society) seeking a grant towards the International Women's Day Event in Perth from 6 – 14 March. The total costs amount to £600. The applicant is requesting £500. The applicant has benefitted from the Fund in

2011/12 (£500). It is recommended to award a grant of £300 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 2 – 50% of the costs maximum). If the grant is not awarded, the applicant will have to fund the activities from its own fund. The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.20 Be Yourself be awarded a grant of £300 towards the cost of their International Women's Day Event.

Perth Academy

- 2.21 An application has been received from Perth Academy seeking a grant towards the costs of sending a pupil who is experiencing financial difficulties on the annual school S1 trip to France in May 2015. The total cost of the trip per pupil is £500 which includes transport, accommodation, food and entry fees. It is recommended that a grant of £300 be awarded in line with approved guidance. (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to promote learning and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.22 Perth Academy be awarded a grant of £300 to allow a pupil to participate in the trip to France in May 2015.

Perth Grammar School

- 2.23 An application has been received from Perth Grammar School seeking a grant towards the costs of sending 5 pupils (who due to financial circumstances would be unable to participate) on the Barcelona/Catalan Cultural Experience Trip 2015 from 13 June to 19 June. The total costs for the trip amount to £27,300. The applicant has applied for £1,500. The applicant has not benefited from the Fund in the last 3 years. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £1,500 (£300 for each pupil) in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to promote learning and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.24 Perth Grammar School be awarded a grant of £1,500 (£300 for each pupil) towards the costs of sending 5 pupils on a trip to Barcelona.

J K S Perth

- 2.25 An application has been received from Japan Karate Shotokan (JKS) Perth seeking a grant towards the cost of specialist equipment. The club hopes to establish an "Autism Karate Group" (based at Viewlands Primary School) which will be run separately from the main J K S Perth who are affiliated to Perth and Kinross Sports Council and recognised by the Scottish Karate Governing Body. The total cost of the equipment which includes Karate Suits, Grading Belts and various types of Pads amounts to £2,258. The applicant is requesting the full amount. The applicant has not benefitted from the Fund in the last 3 years. It is recommended to award a grant of £1,129 in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 4 – 50% of the costs maximum). The grant will contribute to social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.26 J K S Perth “Autism Karate Group” be awarded £1,129 towards the cost of purchasing specialist equipment.

Perth Academy

- 2.27 An application has been received from Perth Academy seeking a grant towards the cost of sending 2 pupils (who due to financial difficulties would be unable to participate) to the S2 Battlefields Trip to France from 30 April to 6 May. The total costs for the trip amount to £18,320. The applicant benefited from the Fund 2012/13 (£900), 2013/14 (£900) and in 2014/15 £1,160. It is recommended that Perth Common Good Fund Committee award a grant of £600 (£300 for each pupil) in line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 11). The grant will contribute to promote learning and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.28 Perth Academy be awarded a grant of £600 (£300 for each pupil) towards the costs of sending 2 S2 pupils to France.

St Matthews Church of Scotland

- 2.29 An application has been received from St Matthews Church of Scotland seeking a grant towards their proposed Sanctuary Redevelopment Project. The goal of the Project is to convert the Sanctuary into a safe, warm, bright and useful facility accessible to all, seven days a week for the next 50 years. The Project costs are estimated at £916,028 which includes heating, seating and disabled access. Successful requests to date from other funders amounts to £200,000. Applications to the Gannochy and Robertson Trusts (£100,000 each) are still pending and the Church will not know the outcome of them until Feb/Mar. The Church’s contribution is £382,839 and if successful with the Gannochy and Robertson Trust applications this would leave a shortfall of £133,189. The request to this Committee is for £150,000. The Church has not benefitted from the Fund in the last 3 years. In line with the guidance (see Appendix 1 – Criteria 5) the applicant would qualify for a 50% grant. However taking into consideration the amount of the request, the Committee may wish to consider what would be an appropriate level of award. The grant will contribute to activities and social inclusion.

Recommendation

- 2.30 It is recommended that the Perth Common Good Fund Committee consider the level of award.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is request to approve the recommendations in the report.

Author

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Fraser McGowan	Community Investment Team Leader	Pullar House – 35 Kinnoull Street Perth - Ext. 77954

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jim Valentine	Executive Director (Environment)	10 February 2015

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals will contribute to the Community Plan's aim of safe, healthy and inclusive communities and the outcome of communities will have improved quality of life. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Perth Common Good Fund's criteria for financial assistance.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals will contribute to the Corporate Plan's objectives of developing educated, responsible and informed citizens and the outcome of people are ready for life and work. The recommendations contained within this report are in accordance with the priorities of Perth Common Good Fund's criteria.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The Head of Finance has been consulted and has indicated agreement with the proposals. The recommendation contained within this report will be funded from the contributions to organisations provision for 2014/15.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome: No further action is required as the items summarised in the committee report do not require further assessment as they do not have an impact on people's wellbeing or equality protected characteristics.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions. The proposals in this report will encourage social equity and opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 14 Applications for financial assistance

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 Perth Financial Assistance - Appendix 1

COMMON GOOD FUNDS WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS AREA CRITERIA

Within the boundary of the relevant common good area and if funding is available, applications will be considered from individuals either in full time education or of senior citizen status and from groups whose members qualify on the same basis or which are operating within the same boundary.

1. Christmas lighting - Firework displays up to a maximum of 50% of the total costs
2. Organisation of events/games/festivals up to a maximum of 50% of the total costs
3. Prizes at events/games/festivals
4. Acquisition of equipment - consideration on merits up to a maximum of 50%
5. Capital grants for provision/improvement of facilities - consideration on merits up to a maximum of 50% (the facilities must be available to the general public)
6. School/youth exchanges
7. School prizes
8. Voluntary work overseas
 - 6 months or more: £100 - **Perth Common Good Fund only**: up to £400 per individual
 - 1 – 5 months: £100 - **Perth Common Good Fund only**: up to £250 per individual
9. Attendance at summer schools/events
 - Less than 1 month but more than 2 weeks: £100 **Perth Common Good Fund only**: up to £150 per individual
 - One/two weeks: up to £100 per individual
10. Excursions/Parties (up to 2 per year per group)
 - Contribution of 50% towards the actual costs. Each organisation is allowed 2 applications during the course of a financial year. **Perth Common Good Fund only**: overall grant to be capped at up to £7 per individual with an overall maximum grant of up to £700.

11. Visits by and from School/Youth/Sport/Music groups

- Contributions of up to £600 for groups less than 20 individuals and up to £1,000 for groups over 20 individuals for youth groups, senior citizen or vulnerable groups for activities exceeding 1 day. **Perth Common Good Fund only and for schools:** Contribution of 50% of the costs up to a maximum of £300 for each young person who due to financial difficulties are unable to participate in an extra curriculum school activity outwith the boundaries of Perth, exceeding 1 day and organised by a school. It will be the responsibility of each school to state the purpose of the extra curriculum school activity and identify such young person and advise the Common Good Fund accordingly.

12. Any purpose where it can be demonstrated that there is a benefit to the community of the common good area

The following is not eligible:

- Assistance with further or higher education fees
- Charity based sponsored walk/cycle/canoe etc.
- Town twinning activities other than those qualifying through the age/occupation criteria
- Organisations with religious/political associations where there are restrictions on usage or availability
- Core funding of the Voluntary sector
- Assistance with rental of premises