

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Audit, Grants and Charities Committee

**Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.30 pm
(Via Zoom)**

- PRESENT** Councillors Matt Severn (Chair), Julia Dunlop (Vice Chair), Pat Gibson, Rachael Hogg, Geoff Cook and Graham Vincent
- Also in attendance: Jason Rushworth
- APOLOGIES** Councillor Douglas Rathbone
- OFFICERS** Judith Lomax (Town Treasurer), Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 558/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 559/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- None.
- 560/20/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER 2020**
- The minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2020 were presented, which had been approved by full Council on 23rd November 2020.
- Councillor Dunlop proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Cook and carried unanimously.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th October 2020 be accepted as a correct record.
- 561/20/21 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT – NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**
- Members considered the Budgetary Control Statement for nine months ended 31st December 2020.
- Staffing expenditure of £16,958 under the Environment heading was queried. It was pointed out that the current method of presenting staffing expenditure did not necessarily attribute expenditure to particular items of work. The Town Clerk advised that Management Committee are discussing ways in which staffing costs could be better proportioned out and presented.
- The Town Clerk was asked to give consideration to the Wainwright Award for 2021.
- Councillor Vincent highlighted that there was no allocation for spend against Parks and Open Spaces Programme under Environment. He

referred to the Civic Society's project at Chancery Steps which he was keen to see progress, along with other projects. The Town Clerk advised that the proposed budget to be considered by Council next week included an element of funding which could be used towards the Chancery Steps project. Councillor Dunlop pointed out that this particular project was on hold pending flood defences work and could not proceed until that is in place.

Councillor Dunlop proposed that the Budgetary Control Statement be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Gibson and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. Town Clerk to give consideration to the Wainwright Award for 2021.
2. That the Budgetary Control Statement be approved.

562/20/21**EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE**

Members received and noted the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/2020. The clean audit was welcomed and a vote of thanks extended to the Treasurer.

Councillor Cook proposed approval, this was seconded by Councillor Gibson and carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION

That the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20 be approved.

563/20/21**GENERAL GRANT APPLICATIONS 2021/22**

The Treasurer reported that grants to the value of £35,989 were approved following the October meeting of the Committee, leaving a balance of £5,011 in the grants budget for 2021/22. Members considered the following applications, which together amount to £17,310:

(a) South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership (SLEDP)

Request for £150 to support the cost of speakers at Interfaith Week in November 2021. Councillor Cook proposed that the full amount be awarded. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried.

(b) The CPR Group

Request for £4,800 to fund a new initiative within secondary and primary schools that will help reduce the amount of lives lost through cardiac arrest through the donation of billboards and lifesaver keyrings. During a general discussion it was noted that the initiative was not just for residents of Kendal. The Chair queried whether any schools have expressed an interest in receiving these items and costings were questioned. Councillor Dunlop proposed that the application be declined. This was seconded by Councillor Gibson and carried unanimously.

(c) The Well Communities

Request for £10,000 to support a recovery housing project in Kendal for individuals and families facing complex problems. Councillor Vincent spoke in support of the organisation from previous experience of its work. He said the service they provide impacts strongly on protection from domestic abuse and stressful times and considered it would be significantly oversubscribed given the current pandemic. He proposed Committee supported the application. Councillor Gibson expressed her support for the work of the organisation also. Councillor Hogg raised a question regarding where the remainder of funding would come from and director salaries.

It was agreed to consider the fourth application prior to reaching a decision.

(d) Autus Cumbria

Request for £2,360 to run a social group in Kendal for adults aged 17-28 with an autistic spectrum syndrome. Councillors Hogg and Dunlop expressed support, commenting that the group would be a valuable resource.

Councillor Vincent proposed the remaining balance of £5,011, less £150 to be awarded to SLEDP, be awarded to The Well Communities. This was seconded by Councillor Gibson. Members voted on the motion with 2 in favour and 4 against.

Councillor Cook proposed an alternative motion to defer The Well Communities application for future consideration once further information had been provided regarding additional funding sources. This was seconded by Councillor Hogg. Members voted on the motion with 3 in favour and 3 against. The Chair had the casting vote and the motion was dismissed.

It was then proposed by the Chair that the remaining balance of £4,860 (£5,011 less £150 agreed for SLEDP) be distributed as follows:

£1,500 carried over for future applications
£2,000 awarded to The Well Communities
£1,360 awarded to Autus

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried with 1 vote against the motion.

RECOMMENDATION That Council approve the award of grants for 2021/22 as follows:

- (a) SLEDP – grant of £150.
- (b) The CPR Group – application to be declined.
- (c) The Well Communities – grant of £2,000
- (d) Autus – grant of £1,360
- (e) Remaining £1,500 from budget to be carried over for future applications.

564/20/21**CCLA INVESTMENT**

At its last meeting Committee considered investing in the Local Authority Property Fund, managed by CCLA, and requested further information. The Town Clerk presented a report for further consideration. He informed Members that a minimum investment of £25k from reserves is recommended for a period of approximately 7 years.

The Chair noted that 34% of the property fund is invested in office property and asked whether that is wise given the current climate and pandemic situation. Following a general discussion the Town Clerk suggested inviting the Market Development Consultant from CCLA to give a presentation and provide an opportunity for Councillors to raise any questions.

The Chair proposed the Town Clerk invite CCLA to give a presentation to all interested Councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Vincent and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk to invite CCLA to give a presentation in respect of the Local Authorities' Property Fund to all interested Councillors.

565/20/21**RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW 2021**

The Town Clerk introduced the report on the Risk Assessment Review 2021. He explained that a different format has been adopted to previous, following a matrix developed by the Joint Practitioners Advisory Group. The matrix assumes there is a degree of risk management that is appropriate to the tasks undertaken by Officers.

Councillor Cook proposed that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Dunlop and carried unanimously.

Members agreed the new format offered a clearer approach and thanked the Town Clerk for his work in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the Risk Assessment Review 2021 be accepted.

566/20/21**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Next edition to feature grants agreed, including testimonials from organisations previously funded. Town Clerk to prepare.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk to prepare a feature relating to grants agreed, including testimonials from organisations previously funded

567/20/21**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2021 AT 7PM**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
561	Budget Statement	RES	1. Town Clerk to give consideration to the Wainwright Award for 2021. 2. That the Budgetary Control Statement be approved.
562	External Auditor Report and Certificate	REC	That the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20 be approved.
563	General Grant Applications 2021/22	REC	That Council approve the award of grants for 2021/22 as follows: (a) SLEDP – grant of £150. (b) The CPR Group – application to be declined. (c) The Well Communities – grant of £2,000 (d) Autus – grant of £1,360 (e) Remaining £1,500 from budget to be carried over for future applications.
564	CCLA Investment	RES	Town Clerk to invite CCLA to give a presentation in respect of the Local Authorities' Property Fund to all interested Councillors.
565	Risk Assessment Review 2021	REC	That the report on the Risk Assessment Review 2021 be accepted.
566	Items for the Newsletter	RES	Town Clerk to prepare a feature relating to grants agreed, including testimonials from organisations previously funded