

In making their decision on giving Farnsfield Tennis Club more time to complete the build of their clubhouse extension which was approved on 26 June 2018 would councillors consider the following points

1. In response to a complaint from a resident to Cllr. Purcicoe requesting that unspent grant monies be returned to Council, Cllr. Purcicoe and Cllr. Ian Clarke met with representatives from Farnsfield Tennis Club on 11 March and Farnsfield Tennis Club were asked at the meeting to write to council asking for an extension to the time to complete the work on their clubhouse extension which they did on 12 March. After a delay due to the impact of Covid19 this request is on this June agenda.
2. Farnsfield Tennis Club were advised not to apply for a grant during 2017/18 as Farnfield Parish Council were considering a project to provide a joint bowls and tennis clubhouse which would have made the plans to extend the tennis clubhouse redundant. Refer to minute 17.30.4 below. This was the reasoning for Council offering a £10,000 grant in June 2018. Refer to minute 18.51.1 and the report labelled appendix 2 below.
3. The tennis club was not the only club to benefit from a grant not in line with the published policy, refer to appendix 2 below.
4. Delays during 2018 were due to Farnsfield Parish Council who undertook to deliver the prerequisite infrastructure work to move the bowls club storage (owned by the Council) and to upgrade the electricity infrastructure on the site (the site is owned by Council). In late November 2018 this project was handed over to Farnsfield Tennis Club to deliver as Council were unable to make any progress and was completed by in 2019. This work was exacerbated by problems in gaining planning permission for the relocation of the bowls storage due to the site being in the conservation area. An email trail is available.
5. Application for planning approval for the tennis clubhouse extension was delayed due to COVID but has now been submitted and is expected by August.
6. FPC grants policy does not now permit grants from developer contributions (S106/CIL funds) at all and it is not clear how funding to external groups such as the bowls, cricket and tennis clubs specified in the s106 agreements can be achieved. Farnsfield Tennis Club cannot reapply for a grant and be successful at this time.
7. The intention of the grant was to help the Tennis Club to improve its facilities using the s106 funding from developer contributions received from the Ash Farm housing development and if the grant is reclaimed this will not happen. Farnsfield Parish Council grants policy does not allow grants to be made from s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funds. Although the grants policy is under review there is no guarantee that it will be changed to allow such grants or that councillors would decide to make a similar grant to the Tennis Club.
8. Any procedural issues in the administration of the grant are issues that Farnsfield Parish Council needs to resolve and are not the fault of Farnsfield Tennis Club who accepted the grant in good faith after a period of collaboration and have made plans for club house improvements based on the funding made available from Farnsfield Parish Council.

Considering that Farnsfield Council clearly supported the clubhouse extension project at the time of the grant and subsequently, that the work is underway and will be completed as soon as is practicable and that the delays to progressing the work were caused largely by the parish council then the reasonable approach is for Farnsfield Parish Council to work with Farnsfield Tennis Club to assist them in completing their improvements to their clubhouse.

Finance, Risk Management & Staffing 11 October 2017

17.30.4 Review of the Community Grant Application from Farnsfield Tennis Club.
Application on file.

The application was discussed as was the possibility of addressing this and any potential bids from the bowls club in a single scheme to include car parking.

Cllr Woods proposed a resolution to review the site and draw up a possible plan for the whole site to include improved and accessible car parking. These plans will be presented to the December PCM

Facilities & Planning Meeting February 2018

18.97.3 Update on the review of the bowls and tennis sites and accessible car parking
Cllr. Woods has reported that the architect is in the process of producing a draft site plan.

Full Council meeting 26 June 2018

18.51.1 Community Grants Report

Cllr Woods presented the attached report.(appendix 2)

The Council resolved with 3 abstentions to award the sum of £10,000 to each of the Tennis Club and Cricket Club as outlined in the report, from Community Grant funds.

Appendix 2 Farnsfield Parish Council Meeting 26 June 2018 Agenda item 18.51.1

Introduction

The Parish Council has a policy and funds available to distribute to community-led projects linked to Developer contributions received from Newark and Sherwood District Council. In 2017/18 applications for funds were received from the Tennis Club and Cricket Club. The Cricket Club was awarded the sum of £5000 from an application that contained a number of elements. The Tennis Club application was towards an extension to the existing clubhouse that was held over pending discussions regarding alternative options on the site. Both Clubs provide accessible facilities to the Village community.

Report

Tennis Club In the intervening period, discussions with the Tennis Club have concluded that the original extension and application for funds is the preferred option. The application is for £10,000

way which a less than one third of the total cost, the remainder being found by the club itself. On the basis that the Parish Council held over the request from last year it is proposed that the full amount is granted, which is within the Community Grant policy.

Cricket Club The application last year was made for a number of capital items, with one being granted funds by the Parish Council as stated above.

This Club has asked for further funding and in particular, a single item of grounds maintenance equipment costing over £20,000. On the basis that the Parish Council can award monies on a match-funding basis, and allocate additional funds at its discretion, it is proposed that the Parish Council provide £10,000 to the Club in this financial year.

Resolution That the Council awards the sum of £10,000 to each of the Tennis Club and Cricket Club as outlined above, from Community Grant funds.