

High Wycombe Town Committee Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 20th January, 2015
Time: 7.00 pm

The meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Charter Trustees

Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe Bucks

Membership

Chairman Councillor A R Green
Vice Chairman Councillor M Hussain JP

Councillors: K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, I Bates, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, R B Colomb, C A Ditta, R Farmer, S Graham, M Hanif, A E Hill, A Hussain, M Hussain, M E Knight, Ms R Knight, Ms P L Lee, Miss S Manir, S F Parker, B E Pearce, C Shafique MBE, T Snaith and Ms J D Wassell

Membership is restricted to those Members representing the High Wycombe wards.

Members are reminded that the Committee is an advisory body and does not have decision making powers in respect of either Executive or non-Executive functions.

Fire Alarm - In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Please congregate at the Assembly Point at the corner of Queen Victoria Road and the River Wye, and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

Agenda

Item		Page
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Interest	
	To receive any disclosure of disclosable pecuniary interests by Members relating to items on the agenda. If any Member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be disclosed, he or she is asked if possible to contact the District Solicitor prior to the meeting.	
	Members are reminded that if they are declaring an interest, they should state the nature of that interest whether or not they are required to withdraw from the meeting.	

Item	Page
3	
Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
4	
Meeting Arrangements	
	To note that, with the Chairman's agreement, future meetings of the Charter Trustees will start at 5.45pm, to ensure meetings of the High Wycombe Town Committee start at the published time of 7.00pm.
5	
Recommendations of the CIL Panel (verbal report)	
	The Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability will provide an update to the Committee.
6	2
High Wycombe Town Centre - Update and Next Steps	
7	3 - 16
Special Expenses Budget 2015/16	
8	17 - 18
High Wycombe Town Committee - Forward Work Programme	
	To note the current draft work programme.
9	19 - 20
Information Sheets	
	The following Information Sheet is attached:
	01/2015 Community Support Grants
	<i>** Members are reminded to give 24 hours' notice of any questions concerning an Information Sheet to ensure an answer can be given at the meeting. **</i>
10	
Supplementary Items (if any)	
11	
Urgent Items (if any)	

For further information, please contact Emma Lund, 01494 421635, emma_lund@wycombe.gov.uk

Agenda Item 1

**Item
No.**

Item

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any disclosure of disclosable pecuniary interest by Members relating to items on the agenda. If any Member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be disclosed, he or she is asked if possible to contact the District Solicitor prior to the meeting.

Members are reminded that if they are declaring an interest, they should state the nature of that interest, whether or not they are required to withdraw from the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2014 – previously circulated.

Agenda Item 6

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN CENTRE – UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Officer contact: John Callaghan Ext 3507 01494 421507
John_callaghan@wycombe.gov.uk

Wards affected: Abbey, Terriers and Amersham Hill

PROPOSED DECISION

1. To note the update provided; and
2. To review the Committee's work programme and indicate what further reports or updates should be provided to the Committee.

Corporate Implications

The report is by way of an update and raises no new financial, legal or other implications.

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Council's Place priority several workstreams are underway to support the regeneration of High Wycombe town centre, both in the short and long term.

A short presentation will be given in respect of:

- The masterplan vision for High Wycombe town centre
- Progress on the implementation of the Alternative Route
- Pauls Row/St Mary's St improvements
- Frogmoor improvements
- "Remaking the river"

Council Priorities - Implications

This work area reflects the Council's Place priority.

Background and Issues

The Delivery and Site Allocations Document sets out a vision for the town centre that includes the provision of the Alternative Route and localised improvement schemes at Pauls Row/St Mary's St and Frogmoor. Longer term the vision also aims to create opportunities to enjoy the River Wye.

The different workstreams are at various stages of development and implementation. Specific work to consider the opportunities to remake the river through the town centre has been undertaken and a briefing of members and stakeholders took place on October 27 2014 at the Guildhall which included a talk by Charles Rangeley Wilson, author of *The Silt Road*, a book about the history of the river.

A presentation on progress and next steps will be presented at the committee meeting together with an opportunity for questions and comments.

Background Papers N/A

Agenda Item 7

SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGET 2015/16

Officer contacts: Steve Richardson Ext: 3322
Email: steve.richardson@wycombe.gov.uk

Jake Bacchus Ext 3278
Email: jake.bacchus@wycombe.gov.uk

Wards affected: All High Wycombe Town

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

That the Committee notes and recommends an option for the Special Expenses budget for 2015/16 and the effect of the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant on precept budgets for Special Expenses, and gives consideration to a separate reserve for future play areas equipment replacement.

NB: The High Wycombe Town Committee is an advisory body only. In the main, its decisions are recommendations to Cabinet or to Council.

Corporate Implications

1. The financial implications have been set out in this report. Under section 35(2) (d) of the Local Government Act 1992 any expenses incurred by the Authority in performing in a part of the District functions performed elsewhere in the District by a Parish Council are Special Expenses unless a contrary resolution is in force. The Council passed a resolution on 4 January 1993 making all such expenses a general expense, with the exception of certain items detailed in the resolution, which are treated as Special Expenses.
2. The government has extended the Council Tax Freeze scheme to encourage local authorities to deliver a council tax freeze in 2015/16. The key principles are a) that the scheme is voluntary, and b) that the authority sets a basic amount of council tax for 2014/15 at a level which is no more than its 2014/15 level, after excluding parish precepts.
3. Should the authority do that, it will then receive a grant of £93k, effectively equivalent to a 1% increase in council tax.
4. Therefore in order to receive this grant the authority has to maintain its 2015/16 basic amount of council tax at no greater than its 2014/15 level, after excluding parish precepts. Under the scheme, parish precepts are excluded but Special Expenses are included.
5. A recommendation to set the Band D equivalent rate at or above the 2014/15 level of £17.80 would preclude the Council's claim on the Freeze Grant for 2015/16 of approximately £93k which will be baselined into future Revenue Support Grant settlements.

Executive Summary

6. This report sets out the proposed budget for 2015/16 for Special Expenses and the impact on the precept. Details of the estimates for 2015/16 are attached at Appendix A.
7. Options for the setting of the Special Expenses precept 2015/16 are outlined in this report.
8. The Council Tax precept is based on the tax base calculated in terms of Band D equivalent properties. The tax base for 2015/16 is 21,213.59 (20,564.43 in 2013/14).
9. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), which resulted in a reduction in the Council Tax base for the High Wycombe Town area from 2013/14, has been baselined into the Council's overall settlement which has seen a reduction of 15.4% in 2015/16. Following a Cabinet decision to reduce CTRS to Parishes and Special Expenses by 15.4% for 2015/16, the grant allocated to High Wycombe Town Special Expenses will be £45,200. This is a reduction from the 2013/14 level of £53,400.

Background and Issues

10. A separate fund is maintained for Special Expenses. Income is raised by a precept on the town's inhabitants and interest is credited on the fund balance.
11. Central Government has extended its Council Tax Freeze Grant payment to Councils into 2015/16. For the purposes of calculating entitlement to Council Tax Freeze Grant the Special Expenses precept must be included within the district-wide calculation. The average Band D Council Tax Rate must be equal to, or lower than 2014/15, to qualify.

2015/16 Budget Overview (Appendix A)

12. For 2015/16 the estimated Net Cost of Services is £419,600. The precept of £374k (£366k in 2014/15), shown at Appendix A, has been calculated using a Band D tax rate of £17.65. After adjusting for the capital charge credit, CTS grant and working balance interest there is an annual surplus of £19k.
13. The most significant change for 2015/16 relates to allotments. Salary budgets allocations have increased by £8,500 following anticipated additional work arising partly from the allotments feasibility study (a separate provision is made for the study itself). Income budgets of £5,800 have also been removed as work now falls under the main grounds maintenance contract.

Options for Setting Precept

14. Options for setting the Council Tax precept are set out in Table 2 below and show the impact to the annual surplus/deficit and to working balances, after adjusting for the capital charge credit, CTS grant and interest.

Working Balances

15. The current recommended minimum level of working balances is £150k. Column H in Table 2 above shows the level of estimated working balances above the minimum of £150k.
16. The estimated £473k working balance surplus for the end of financial year 2015/16, shown at Appendix A, equates to more than more than one year's worth of precept.
17. The Committee may wish to consider setting up a specific reserve from within the working balance for re-provision of play area equipment which need to be replaced on a 15 year cycle. A £342k requirement is estimated to be needed as outlined below. Committee should note the agreed minimum level of working balances of £150k when considering their recommendation.

**Table 1: Play Programme Replacements due in next 16 years
(based on 15 year lifecycle)**

Year of replacement	Site due for replacement	Estimated Cost of replacement
2022/23	Shelley Recreation Ground (LEAP)	£54,000
2025/26	Totteridge Rec over 8's (part of NEAP when combined with under 8's)	£72,000
2025/26	Booker Rec (NEAP)	£144,000
2026/27	Totteridge Rec under 8's (part of NEAP when combined with over 8's)	£72,000
	Total	£342,000

Next Steps

18. These proposals and the Committee's comments and recommendations will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 9th February 2015. Council tax for 2015/16 will be set by full Council at its meeting on 26th February 2015.

Background Papers

Papers held by Financial Services.

Table 2: Council Tax Precept Options for 2015/16, excluding CTS Grant and Interest of Working Balances

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Option	Reduction	Band D	Precept	Impact of new Band D precept against 2014/15 Band D tax band	Annual 2014/15 (surplus)/deficit against 2015/16 budget*	Working Balance for year ending 31st March 2016	Level above minimum working balance of £150k
1	0.00%	£17.80	£377,600	£0	(£22,500)	(£519,500)	(£369,500)
2**	0.84%	£17.65	£374,400	£3,200	(£19,300)	(£516,300)	(£366,300)
3(a)	2%	£17.30	£366,900	£10,700	(£11,800)	(£508,800)	(£358,800)
3(b)	4%	£16.94	£359,400	£18,200	(£4,300)	(£501,300)	(£351,300)
3(c)	6%	£16.59	£352,000	£25,600	£3,100	(£493,900)	(£343,900)
3(d)	8%	£16.24	£344,500	£33,100	£10,600	(£486,400)	(£336,400)
3(e)	10%	£15.89	£337,000	£40,600	£18,100	(£478,900)	(£328,900)
Tax Base		21,213.59					

*Column F: The Annual Budget (Net Cost of Services) is shown in Appendix A at £419,600. The (surplus)/deficit is shown after adjusting for the capital charge credit, CTS Grant and interest.

** The draft budget at Appendix A has been based on minimum reduction to qualify for freeze grant

Agenda Item 7 Appendix A

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN AREA

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

SUMMARY

2013/14 Net Actual £	2014/15 Net Estimate £		2015/16 Gross Expenditure £	2015/16 Income & Credits £	2015/16 Net Expenditure £
SPECIAL EXPENSES					
127,708	134,600	Recreational Grounds (Local)	137,300	(6,700)	130,600
46,068	41,400	Allotments	62,500	0	62,500
62,155	161,400	High Wycombe Cemetery	270,900	(102,900)	168,000
3,679	5,700	Footway Lighting and Bus Shelters	5,900	0	5,900
20,000	28,000	Financial Assistance to Vol Groups	28,000	0	28,000
3,000	3,000	Town Twinning	3,000	0	3,000
13,403	20,000	Community Grants	20,000	0	20,000
1,241	1,600	Other Expenses	1,700	(100)	1,600
277,254	395,700	Total Special Expenses	529,300	(109,700)	419,600
(11,600)	(14,400)	Capital charges credit			(14,400)
(3,465)	(2,600)	Interest on balances			(4,900)
(62,000)	(53,400)	Council Tax Support Contribution (CTS Grant)			(45,200)
100,000	0	Wrights Meadow Community Centre			0
0	0	Castlefield Community Centre Capital			5,000
0	0	Allotments Feasibility Study			23,000
0	0	Cemetery Retaining Wall repairs			15,000
0	43,000	Cemetery Lodge			0
0	57,605	Concrete Burial Chambers			0
<u>300,189</u>	<u>425,905</u>	Net spending for year			<u>398,100</u>
(496,627)	(556,938)	Balance b/f			(497,033)
(360,500)	(366,000)	Collection Fund precept (Based on £17.65 Band D rate)			(374,400)
<u>(556,938)</u>	<u>(497,033)</u>	Balance c/f			<u>(473,333)</u>

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

RECREATION GROUNDS (LOCAL)

Cost Centre: CNFB31

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Sarah Randall

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	<i>Staff Costs</i>			
A001	Salaries	10,377	11,100	15,500
	<i>Premises Related Expenses</i>			
B301	Maintenance to Grounds	6,979	6,900	6,900
B360	Tree Works	1,707	1,000	1,000
B401	General Maintenance	46	10,000	0
	<i>Supplies and Services</i>			
F012	Cleansing Contract Payment	0	1,900	1,900
	GROSS CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	19,109	30,900	25,300
	Income			
L740	Football	(4,109)	(8,900)	(6,700)
	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE INCOME	(4,109)	(8,900)	(6,700)
	NET CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	15,000	22,000	18,600
H001	<i>Recharges</i>			
IR006	Queen Victoria Road	368	400	300
IR009	Maintenance of Grounds	94,500	94,200	94,200
IR012	Insurance	400	400	400
IR028	IT Non Staff	1,109	1,100	1,500
IR037	Central Support	1,931	2,100	1,200
J010	Capital Charges	14,400	14,400	14,400
	GROSS NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	112,708	112,600	112,000
	NET EXPENDITURE	127,708	134,600	130,600

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

ALLOTMENTS

Cost Centre: CNFB32

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Sarah Randall

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	<i>Staff Costs</i>			
A001	Salaries	14,124	21,200	29,700
	<i>Premises Related Expenses</i>			
B301	Maintenance to Grounds	19,753	1,000	1,500
B360	Tree works	425	1,000	1,000
B740	Water Costs	177	0	0
	<i>Supplies and Services</i>			
D461	Computer (Colony)	0	500	0
D622	Software/Computer Expenses	673	1,000	1,000
GROSS CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		35,152	24,700	33,200
	Income			
M529	Rent	(6,389)	0	0
M536	Fees and Charges	(7,349)	(5,300)	0
P798	Other Income	(35)	(500)	0
TOTAL CONTROLLABLE INCOME		(13,773)	(5,800)	0
NET CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		21,379	18,900	33,200
	<i>Recharges</i>			
H001	Queen Victoria Road	1,105	1,200	800
IR006	Maintenance of Grounds	7,100	7,100	7,100
IR009	IT Non Staff	6,564	3,900	7,500
IR028	Central Support	9,920	10,300	13,900
IR037				
GROSS NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		24,689	22,500	29,300
NET EXPENDITURE		46,068	41,400	62,500

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

HIGH WYCOMBE CEMETERY

Cost Centre: CNEB05

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Sarah Randall

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
A001	Salaries	61,331	60,600	61,800
	<i>Premises Related Expenses</i>			
B301	Maintenance to Grounds	35,122	21,900	21,900
B360	Tree Works	3,498	4,500	4,500
B401	General Maintenance	328	4,500	4,500
B703	Electricity	309	1,500	500
B704	Gas	391	1,300	800
B735	Rates	7,600	6,900	7,100
B740	Water Authority Services	25	2,400	2,400
	<i>Supplies and Services</i>			
D001	Equipment	259	500	500
D040	Equipment - Hire/Lease	497	500	600
D132	Printing	0	200	200
D461	Various Fees	360	0	0
D611	Telephones	670	1,000	1,000
D622	Computer Software	1,960	2,100	3,000
F012	Cleansing	0	3,400	3,400
	GROSS CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	112,350	111,300	112,200

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

HIGH WYCOMBE CEMETERY

Cost Centre: CNEB05

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Sarah Randall

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	Income			
M342	Interment Fees-Private	(79,197)	(29,400)	(31,100)
M345	Monument Fees	(22,272)	(12,200)	(12,200)
M346	Grave Maintenance	(1,650)	(2,000)	(2,000)
M529	Rents	(10,762)	(11,100)	(11,100)
M551	Burial Rights Purchase	(57,856)	(40,100)	(41,000)
M552	Grave Reservation	(169)	(500)	(500)
P798	Other Income	(28,314)	(5,000)	(5,000)
	TOTAL CONTROLLABLE INCOME	(200,220)	(100,300)	(102,900)
	NET CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	(87,870)	11,000	9,300
H001	<i>Recharges</i>			
IR006	Queen Victoria Road	2,210	2,400	1,500
IR009	Maintenance of Grounds-Contract	126,164	125,900	125,900
IR012	Insurance	300	300	500
IR018	Insurance - staff	1,081	1,300	0
IR024	Staff Overheads	0	300	0
IR028	IT Non Staff	8,038	7,500	11,900
IR037	Central Support	12,232	12,700	18,900
	GROSS NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE	150,025	150,400	158,700
	NET EXPENDITURE	62,155	161,400	168,000

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

FOOTWAY LIGHTING & BUS SHELTERS

Cost Centre: CNEB01

Responsible Officer: John McMillan
Operational Officer: Stuart Ross

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	<i>Premises Related Expenses</i>			
B001	Repairs and Maintenance	2,320	1,600	1,800
B703	Electricity	781	1,900	1,900
	<i>Supplies and Services</i>			
D001	Equipment	0	2,200	2,200
GROSS CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		3,101	5,700	5,900
NET CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		3,101	5,700	5,900
H001	<i>Recharges</i>			
IR037	Central Support	578	0	0
GROSS NON-CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE		578	0	0
NET EXPENDITURE		3,679	5,700	5,900

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Cost Centre: CNFC01/02

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Gillian Stimpson

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	<i>Supplies and Services</i>			
D711	Asst. to Voluntary Sector - Hilltop	12,000	13,000	13,000
D711	Asst. to Voluntary Sector - Castlefield	8,000	15,000	15,000
	NET EXPENDITURE	20,000	28,000	28,000

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

TOWN TWINNING

SERVICE CODE:

Cost Centres: CNFB03

Responsible Officer:

Elaine Jewell

Operational Officer:

Gillian Stimpson

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
D717	Grant - Town Twinning Committee	3,000	3,000	3,000
	NET EXPENDITURE	3,000	3,000	3,000

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

COMMUNITY GRANTS

SERVICE CODE:

Cost Centres: CNFB06

Responsible Officer:

Elaine Jewell

Operational Officer:

Gillian Stimpson

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
	OTHER EXPENSES CHARGED ON HIGH WYCOMBE AREA			
D717	Financial assistance-Community/Village Halls	13,403	20,000	20,000
	NET EXPENDITURE	13,403	20,000	20,000

HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

Estimates for the year ending 31st March 2016

OTHER EXPENSES

SERVICE CODE: Cost Centres: **VARIOUS**

Responsible Officer: Elaine Jewell
Operational Officer: Sarah Randall

ACCOUNT CODE	SUBJECTIVE HEADING	2013/2014 ACTUAL £	2014/2015 BUDGET £	2015/2016 BUDGET £
OTHER EXPENSES CHARGED ON HIGH WYCOMBE AREA				
D899	Commemorative Services -General	1,270	1,700	1,700
N005	Rutland Hospital Trust-Investment Interest	(29)	(100)	0
NET EXPENDITURE		1,241	1,600	1,700

Agenda Item 8

Wycombe District Council
HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE
Work Programme – MARCH 2015 - SEPT 2015

Title & Subject Matter	Meeting / Date to be taken	Contact Officer
<u>March 2015</u>		
HWTC - Policing Update To receive a Policing Update from Thames Valley Police (to be confirmed).	03 Mar 2015	Emma Lund, Senior Democratic Services Officer
HWTC- Update on Major Projects (as required) <i>Update on major projects/developments affecting High Wycombe town.</i>	03 Mar 2015	Emma Lund, Senior Democratic Services Officer
HWTC - Q3 Budgetary Control Report	03 Mar 2015	Jake Bacchus, Senior Accountant
HWTC – North Hughenden Quarter Scheme	03 Mar 2015	Elaine Jewell, Head of Community
HWTC – Update on Cemetery Site Options	03 Mar 2015	Sarah Randall, Community Commissioning Manager
<u>June 2015</u>		
HWTC - Update from HWBIDCo	23 Jun 2015	Emma Lund, Senior Democratic Services Officer
HWTC - Budgetary Control Report Outturn 2014/15	23 Jun 2015	Jake Bacchus, Senior Accountant
HWTC - Community Infrastructure Levy Funding in High Wycombe Unparished Wards	23 Jun 2015	Gerard Coll, Developer Contributions Officer

Title & Subject Matter	Date to be taken	Contact Officer
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September 2015		
HWTC - Community Infrastructure Levy Local Allocation	15 Sep 2015	Gerard Coll, Developer Contributions Officer
HWTC - Grants awarded from the HWTC Community Support Grant (Information Sheet)	15 Sep 2015	Elaine Jewell, Head of Community
HWTC - Chiltern Rangers Update	15 Sep 2015	Emma Lund, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Meeting contact officer: Emma Lund, Democratic Services, 01494 421635, emma_lund@wycombe.gov.uk

Work Programme Updated: 7 January 2015

Agenda Item 9



INFORMATION SHEET

High Wycombe Town Committee

Issue No: 1-2015

Date Issued: 12 January 2015

High Wycombe Town Committee Community Support Grants

Officer contact: Barbara Eccleston Ext: 3424

DDI: 01494 421424

High Wycombe Town Committee have agreed to award an annual budget of £20,000 for the payment of grants to the voluntary and community sector (VCS), within the unparished Wards of High Wycombe.

The budget of £20,000 is divided as to £10,000 for Facility Grants and £10,000 for Community Support Grants.

Applications received during the financial year 2014/2015 reflect the diversity of communities operating in the area of benefit.

Facility Grants

Facility Grants are awarded to VCS organisations that use their premises for community use as their primary purpose and operate within the unparished Wards of High Wycombe. These grants enable community facilities to benefit from essential building works and refurbishment to ensure they remain available for community use. Work must be completed within one year of confirmation of an award and grants are only paid upon completion of works, and receipt of a satisfactory report.

For the financial year 2014/2015, there has only been one application. This was from Oakridge Baptist Church for a new heating system. This application was refused and thus the full budget of £10,000 remains.

Community Support Grants

Small community support grants, up to a maximum of £1,500, are awarded to community groups that operate within the unparished Wards of High Wycombe. These grants are intended to cover the capital cost of an activity, project or event that directly benefits the local community being served.

For the financial year 2014/2015, grants totalling £4,774.67 have been awarded. There remains a budget of £5,225.33 available to spend for the benefit of local organisations and the communities they serve.

A list of successful organisations to date, and grants awarded, is shown overleaf.

To enable as many VCS organisations as possible to benefit from a community support grant, it would be appreciated if the Committee could be mindful of the budget still available, and if at all possible, to ensure that VCS organisations operating in the unparished wards of High Wycombe are made aware of the remaining budget and the benefits that a grant could provide to their local communities.

HWTC Facility Grants			Grant Awarded
Oakridge Baptist Church	Heating system	Refused	0
Total Spend to date			0

HWTC Community Support Grants		Grant Awarded
SV2G	Community Festival	1,500
All Saints Church, High Wycombe	Flower Festival	1,500
Chequers Avenue Fun Day	Community Day	300
Wycombe Community Arts Centre	Digital Equipment	1,474.67
Total Spend to date		4,774.67