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| Agenda Item | 7           |
| Report No   | RC<br>44/07 |

**Tain Common Good Fund**

**Report by Area Manager**

**Summary**

**This report gives details of requests for funding support from the Tain Common Good Fund. The requests are for £6,000 from Tain Thistle Football Club; £4150 from Craighill Parents Association, and £6000 from the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Tain.**

**1.0 Introduction**

**1.1** Three requests have been received for funding from Tain Common Good Fund all of which require the approval of the Area Committee.

**2.0 Tain Thistle Football Club**

**2.1** Tain Thistle Football Club has requested **£6,000** from Tain Common Good Fund for the purposes of repairing their changing pavilion in Tain. The building has been damaged by a water leak and now requires full re-wiring and re-plumbing. There are no other changing facilities available for the Club and for others to use. The total cost of works is expected to be of the order of **£8,500**. The Club have been awarded monies from the Beinn Tharsuin Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund as well as raising monies themselves.

**2.2** Tain Community Council supports the application and in terms of eligibility, I have no difficulties with the proposal. I consider that the application can be supported.

**3.0 Craighill Parents Association**

**3.1** Craighill Parents Association requests the sum of **£4,150** towards provision of a de-mountable stage which can be used by the school as part of ongoing activities during the school day, notably drama. The stage can also be used during concerts and ceilidhs where all pupils are given an opportunity perform in front of an audience made up of parents and the whole community. The staging could be made available for community events within the school.

- 3.2** This application is somewhat more complicated than it may seem.
- 3.3** The Head Teacher of Craighill Primary School made application in the summer of 2006 for **£4,656** to purchase staging for the school hall. The Area Committee declined to make payment at that stage until other avenues of funding were investigated. The money applied for at that time comprised the whole cost of the project with no funds being raised from any other source.
- 3.4** This decision was communicated to the school and a subsequent application for **£500** funding was received from Craighill Parents Association. Following the approval of the Community Council, this amount was paid to the Parents Association using the delegated powers of the Area Manager.
- 3.5** However, the Parents Association, whilst thankful for the grant, responded to say that, in fact, a mistake had been made in the application and that £500 represented the amount raised by the Parents Association and that the money sought from the Common Good Fund was, in fact, **£4,150**. The cheque was returned and a new application for the £4150 made.
- 3.6** The Community Council does not support the application.
- 3.7** I have to say that at the time of the original funding application I had some concern regarding the proposal. Whilst there may be opportunities for the staging to be used for other events within the school, for the bulk of the time the staging will be used solely for school events. If the staging is to be used for educational purposes then my view is that the bulk of funding should come from the Education Authority and some from the Common Good Fund. I, therefore, share the concerns of the Community Council. It is, of course, open to members to agree payment of a smaller sum to the Parents Association and this may be appropriate.

#### **4.0 Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Tain**

- 4.1** The Community Council seek funding of **£6,000** from the Common Good Fund to assist in the Tain Mussel Shell Project which is to be run in April to June 2007 in and around the town. The monies would be used to assist in funding for artists' fees, promotion, interpretive boards and sundry other costs. The project will include a work of art created and displayed in the town along with individual projects undertaken by local schools. The total project costs are **£30,000** of which **£23,000** has already been confirmed from other agencies.
- 4.2** Clearly the project will benefit Tain in terms of providing public art and also in terms of attracting visitors to the town. The project is, of course, supported by the Community Council.

#### **5.0 Affordability**

- 5.1** Tain Common Good Fund generates approximately **£50,000** a year surplus. Whilst there have been substantial payments made in grants over the financial year, I believe that all the current applications would be affordable. Accordingly, all applications could be supported by Area Committee if they wish.

**5.2** However, I do have concerns regarding the Craighill Parents Association application which are set out above.

**Recommendation**

**Members are asked to;**

- a) Approve payment of £6,000 to Tain Thistle Football Club for refurbishment of their changing pavilion;**
- b) Decide on an appropriate level of payment to Craighill Parents Association, and**
- c) Approve payment of £6,000 to Tain Community Council to assist in the Tain Mussel Shell Project.**

**Signature:**



**Designation:** Area Manager

**Date:**

**Author:** Bob Cameron, Area Manager (01349) 868500

**Background papers:** All documents referred to in the foregoing report