

PARISH TOGETHER REQUEST

Meeting date: 2nd October 2017

Agenda item 17/180iii

REQUEST

made via email from Whimple Parish Council on 19.09.2017

“We are currently looking at the Parish Together Fund requests for November and wonder if any other parish is either looking for inspiration or can share some with us!

We discussed in last night PC meeting the need to purchase some equipment linked to our responsibility to keep the roads and lanes in the Parish free of potholes. This includes temp signs warning or work in the road, tools, safety clothing etc. It could be that another local Parish is looking at the same issue and may be willing to join together to share the equipment purchased via the PTF?

Alternatively, we are very willing to listen to any other suggestions or ideas other Parishes may have which we could possibly help/join in with.

Kind regards...”

REPORT

One of the pilot parishes of the Community Road Warden Scheme (CRWS), Broadclyst Parish Council reported on the financial impact on smaller parishes having to purchase their own tools for pothole repairs. Although not hugely expensive in the scheme of things, it adds to the overall cost of delivering community self-help, which can become cost-prohibitive in small communities (which somewhat ironically can be the very ones needing to carry out the work).

Whimple’s proposal to use the PTF to purchase equipment which can then be shared by other parishes fits perfectly with the criteria and ethos of the scheme: parishes working together to seek solutions to common issues and to improve their communities.

There are issues with sharing equipment, such as availability, cost of repair/replacement, insurance, storage, however for the purposes of responding to Whimple’s request it must be presumed that the parishes wishing to undertake CRWS work using these tools are presumably aware of such complications and are happy that the advantages outweigh any potential issues around shared equipment.

FUND BALANCE

Broadclyst Parish Council has resolved to contribute £500 of its funding to the Great Trees project, leaving a balance of £2,739.50 for 2017/18.

The closing dates for applications in 2017/18 are 5pm on 19 June 2017, 10 November 2017 and 7 February 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- recognises the importance to rural communities of the CRW scheme
- resolves to support the scheme
- allocates a sum of money from its 2017/18 allocation (suggest £739.50 to leave balance of £2,000)

This concludes my report to Council.

Angie Hurren, MILCM.

Broadclyst Parish Clerk

30 September 2017