

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities

Date of Meeting:	28 th April 2014
Report of:	Principal Manager, Local Area Working
Subject/Title:	War Memorial Grants
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor D Brown

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 To determine the award of War Memorial Grants to voluntary and community organisations and Town and Parish Councils which meet the criteria approved by Cheshire East Council. Cheshire East Council decided to provide one-off funding to support a War Memorial Grants Scheme within the boundaries of Cheshire East for the financial year of 2014/15. The aim of the War Memorial Grants Scheme is to support not for profit organisations and town and parish councils to fund repairs and refurbishment of War Memorials across the Borough.

1.2 The report covers the applications for War Memorial Grants for 2014/15 and makes recommendations totalling £24,342 in line with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of War Memorial Grants.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the following War Memorial Grants be awarded/declined/deferred as indicated:

Alderley Edge Parish Council	Declined
Alpraham Parish Council	Awarded £1,000
Bollington War Memorial Fund	Declined
Bunbury Parochial Church Council	Awarded £2,400
Church Lawton PCC	Awarded £1,273
Congleton Town Council/Town Partnership	Awarded £4,219
Gawsworth Parish Council	Awarded £1,200
Knutsford Town Council	Awarded £8,000
Middlewich Town Council	Declined
Mottram St Andrew Parish Council	Awarded £170
Nantwich Town Council	Declined
Pott Shrigley Parish Council	Awarded £1,890
St Mary of the Immaculate Conception	Awarded £1,250
The Royal British Legion – Crewe Branch	Awarded £500
Wybunbury Tower Preservation Trust	Awarded £2,440

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations (details of Grants)

3.1 Alderley Edge Parish Council

Total Cost of Project - £6,995 Amount Requested - £500

Alderley Edge Parish Council are applying for funding to re-pave the base which is an integral part of the memorial. The Memorial is owned by Cheshire East. Cleaning methods for the rest of the memorial in original the quotation have been highlighted as unsuitable by the Heritage team. It is recommended that the application is declined and referred to Cheshire East Assets team who are awaiting the results of their quinquennial inspections to agree a programme of work for Cheshire East owned memorials.

Alraham Parish Council

Total Cost of Project - £1,420 Amount Requested - £1,000

Alraham Parish Council wish to relocate the existing memorial when the current village hall is demolished. They also wish to purchase a new memorial when the new village hall is built. Relocation cannot be funded unless community support evidenced and new memorials cannot be funded. It is recommended that they are awarded the cost of incorporating the existing memorial into the new village hall only if significant community support can be demonstrated.

Bollington War Memorial Fund

Total Cost of Project - £7,954 Amount Requested - £5,500

Bollington War Memorial Fund are applying to create additions to the existing memorial to include all of the names of those that served in WW1 from the area. The current memorial cannot be restored or cleaned. Some names are missing from the original memorial and inscriptions have become hard to read. The original memorial is owned by Cheshire East. New memorials cannot be funded by the scheme but all available options of restoration have been explored and discounted. It is recommended that the application is declined and referred to Cheshire East Assets team who are awaiting the results of their quinquennial inspections to agree a programme of work for Cheshire East owned memorials.

Bunbury Parochial Church Council

Total Cost of Project - £8,700 Amount Requested - £2,400

Bunbury Parochial Church Council will be refurbishing and restoring their War Memorial Gates which have been untouched for 90+ years. The steps are worn and broken and the iron overthrow and lamp are eroded and broken. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,000.

Church Lawton Parochial Church Council

Total Cost of Project - £1,773 Amount Requested - £1,273

Church Lawton PCC require funding to repair the roof and to re-point parts of the porch that was built in memory of those from the area that served in the great war. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,273.

Congleton Town Council/Town Partnership**Total Cost of Project - £4,219 Amount Requested - £4,219**

Congleton Town Council and Town Partnership are undertaking a large project to clean and restore their cenotaph, followed by rebuilding a boundary wall and creating a community garden. The application is being made for the 1st stage costs which include cleaning the cenotaph and preparing a pre-condition report and analysis for a HLF grant submission which will fund the remainder of the project should the bid be successful. It is recommended that they are awarded £4,219.

Gawsworth Parish Council**Total Cost of Project - £1,200 Amount Requested - £1,200**

The War Memorial in Gawsworth is partly made from wood. The roof of which is now rotting and needs replacing. The remainder of the memorial also needs re-vernishing to further preserve the memorial. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,200 on condition of receiving appropriate permissions from the English Heritage Trust as the base is a scheduled monument.

Knutsford Town Council**Total Cost of Project - £8,000 Amount Requested - £8,000**

Knutsford does not currently have a Town Centre memorial. Knutsford Town Council propose the relocation of a bronze statue from its current location to the Town Centre to create a focal point for Remembrance Sunday. A survey has shown that 71% residents were in favour of relocation. Knutsford RBL also support the relocation. The Town Council do not have legal responsibility for the statue. It is recommended that they are awarded the full project cost of £8,000 for the relocation subject to the confirmation of permission for the works by the legal owner, information on the proposed new location, relevant planning permissions and demonstrating significant public support. Further information to be supplied through discussions with the Design and Heritage Team.

Middlewich Town Council**Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £2,150**

Middlewich Town Council are applying to fund the cleaning and restoration of the town centre war memorial. The memorial is owned by Cheshire East. It is recommended that the application is declined and referred to Cheshire East Assets team who are awaiting the results of their quinquennial inspections to agree a programme of work for Cheshire East owned memorials.

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council**Total Cost of Project - £810 Amount Requested - £510**

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council have an illuminated parchment framed in oak and covered by oak doors. The parchment needs to be cleaned and protected to prevent further staining. The remaining project costs include the renovation of the side panels, which has already been funded by the Parish Council and the production of a leather bound commemorative book to record the research carried out into the names of those who gave their lives from the area. Unfortunately, as the scheme cannot fund retrospectively and because new memorials cannot be funded, it is recommended that £170 is awarded for the costs of cleaning and restoring the parchment.

Nantwich Town Council**Total Cost of Project - £2,500 Amount Requested - £500**

Nantwich Town Council are applying for funding to clean and re-point the war memorial in the town centre. The Town Council do not have legal responsibility for the memorial, which is maintained by CEC. It is recommended that the application is declined and referred to Cheshire East Assets team who are awaiting the results of their quinquennial inspections to agree a programme of work for Cheshire East owned memorials.

Pott Shrigley Parish Council**Total Cost of Project - £1,890 Amount Requested - £1,890**

Pott Shrigley Parish Council are applying for funding to replace two oak runners/bases that support the Lych-gate war memorial. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,890 on condition that they receive the appropriate approvals and faculty permission if a functioning church. Late information highlighted the need to possibly look at more specialised contractors, therefore new quotes will need to be submitted which may require the offer to be revised.

St Mary of the Immaculate Conception**Total Cost of Project - £2,520 Amount Requested - £1,250**

St Mary's require funding to clean and restore the limestone memorial plaque located within the church. It is recommended that they are awarded £1,250 on condition of the church working with the Design and Heritage team to agree the most appropriate method of cleaning.

The Royal British Legion – Crewe Branch**Total Cost of Project - £500 Amount Requested - £500**

Crewe RBL require funding to clean a stone plaque that has been donated for display by the RBL for the WW1 Commemoration. The RBL do not have legal responsibility for the stone as it was found in a local chapel. It is recommended that they are awarded £500 for the renovation subject to the receipt of bank account details which have not yet been submitted. It is also conditional on the item being kept on public display.

Wynbunbury Town Preservation Trust**Total Cost of Project - £3,740 Amount Requested - £2,440**

Wynbunbury Tower Preservation Trust wish to replace the rotten wood/gates on the lych-gate which serves as a memorial to WW1 and is the centre piece at many village events. It is recommended that they are awarded £2,440 on condition of receiving faculty permission if a functioning church. Will also need to work with the Heritage and Design Team to agree the most appropriate type of paint to be used and whether the gates can be replaced like for like due to the exposed spike design of the original gate.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 The recommendations relate to all wards within Cheshire East

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Ward members

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 All of the applications contained in this report have been considered in the light of the Council's Policy for the Allocation of War Memorial Grants, and the recommendations on each one conform to that Policy.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 All of the proposed grants can be funded from within existing budgets approved as part of the Council's Budget for 2014/15

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council has the powers to award grants to organisations using its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In exercising the power the Council must satisfy its public law duties. In essence this means that in making the decision the Council must have taken into account only relevant considerations, followed procedural requirements, acted for proper motives and not acted unreasonably. A grant policy is a clear statement of the criteria that the Council is applying and is essential if the Council is to defend any challenge to its decision making process.

8.2 Cabinet has approved and Cheshire East Council has put in place a Policy for the Allocation of War Memorial Grants to Voluntary and Community Organisations and Town/Parish Councils. This Policy deals with the allocation of war memorial grants which are awarded to defined Organisations following an application process and against a set criteria. There are conditions requiring that Organisations report back to the Council upon expenditure of the grant and to enable further appropriate conditions to be imposed. The decision making process was delegated to the Portfolio Holder in order ensure that decisions can be made expeditiously and at the appropriate level.

8.3 Grant funding organisations based on the application of the Council's grant policy satisfies the Council's public law duties.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 None identified.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 Applications received and allocated in accordance with Cheshire East Council's Policy for the Allocation of War Memorial Grants.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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