

Community Grants (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of four grants towards West & Middle Chinnock play equipment project at the Recreation Field, Ashill Village Hall project, Merriott Tithe Barn project and George Reynolds Centre project.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a keyway that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

We have received requests, as detailed below, to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Councillors award the following grants, from the Area West Community capital and revenue grant fund, subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

1. £9,996 towards West & Middle Chinnock play equipment project.
2. £5,946 towards Ashill Village Hall project.
3. £8,185 towards Merriott Tithe Barn project.
4. £4,675 towards George Reynolds Centre project.

1. West & Middle Play Equipment Project

Application Details

Name of applicant:	West & Middle Chinnock Parish Council
Project:	Installing new play equipment at the Recreational Field
Total project cost:	£21,996
Amount requested from SSDC:	£9,996
% amount requested	45.5%



Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	2
D Need for Project	10	9
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	3
Total	38	29

Background

The Parish Council was offered the opportunity to purchase the Village Recreation Ground as part of the Community Asset Transfer programme for £1.00 in June 2018. The Parish Council were determined to purchase the Recreation Ground in order to secure the land for future generations and ensure its status as land explicitly for "recreation" purposes only.

West & Middle Chinnock does not have a dedicated open recreation space with equipment for children and families. There is a small enclosed, high fenced in area at the village school, with limited static play equipment, a small hard surface basketball/netball fenced in area. This is opened by volunteers at weekends and evenings, and it is not appropriate for older children or families, with no seating area or access to "recreation and leisure" space.

Currently there is 2 sets of 2 swings on the Recreation ground, however these are not a "draw" for children and families as there is no other play equipment. Families who are seeking recreation facilities for children will leave the villages to access other local areas such as Merriott and Crewkerne Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council received £15K CIL in 2018 and this money was ring fenced towards the re-development of the Recreation Ground. The project was put on hold during COVID. The sale of the Recreation Ground finally went through on in October 21 and it was agreed that the Parish Council would formally take over the redevelopment of the Recreation Ground with a further on-going resident consultations and sub committees formed at each stage of the development.

Parish information

Parish*	West & Middle Chinnock
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South Somerset District Council

Parish Population	592
No. of dwellings	270

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The Parish Council's aim is to kick-start the project by the immediate installation of a prioritised small amount of the play and leisure equipment from their wider vision. The Parish Council wants to create excitement amongst the residents and local organisations, to inspire them to support the recreational park. The park will be a destination point for health, leisure, and wellbeing activities.

The project is to install a new wooden play tower with slides and climbing frame, a new Log Swing with Basket, as well as new surfacing.

This project is part of a bigger plan to improve the recreational field, with the aim is to improve access at all entry points, the introduction of children and teenage play areas, adult health & fitness activities, a circular path, landscaping, habitat development, tree planting, specific leisure space for families to enjoy space and time together, picnic space and picnic tables, and additional seating.

Local support / evidence of need

Prior to the suggestion of the Community Asset transfer, a community plan had been produced 2016/17, which identified the Recreation Ground as the number one priority by residents for development of a play and recreation/leisure area.

Over the past 3 years the villages have seen a rise in low level vandalism for teenage children, linked to lack of facilities and activities for teenage children in the villages and lack of transport access to the main towns, Crewkerne and Yeovil. We are working closely with our local PCSO to address these issues and hope that this project will go part way to provide facilities for teenagers.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Wooden Play Tower with slides and climbing frame	£11,199
Log swing with Basket	£2,806
Surfacing	£5,509
Welfare/site security	£1,932.
Soil Removal	£550.00
Total	£21,996

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£12,000
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£9,996
Total		£21,996

2. Ashill Village Hall Project

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Ashill Community Village Hall Committee
Project:	Removal of asbestos roof and installation of a new roof to the Village Hall
Total project cost:	£37,423
Amount requested from SSDC:	£5,946
% amount requested	15.89%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	3
D Need for Project	10	9
E Capacity of Organisation	15	12
F Financial need	7	5
Total	38	32

Background

Ashill Village Hall is a registered charity which was built in 1935 on land gifted to the village by the Speke family and has been used as a community amenity ever since.

Ashill has a primary school with approximately forty-five pupils, playing fields and a church. The shop closed some years ago and the pub has now closed, so the village hall is the only public building for the community to meet.



South Somerset

District Council

Parish information

Parish*	Ashill
Parish Population	529
No. of dwellings	250

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

Currently Ashill Village Hall has an Asbestos roof. The roof is currently not watertight and is causing internal damage to the building. There are financial implications because of this issue, the Committee must put the heating on to keep it warm and to prevent mould, which is having an impact on users and potential future users.

Installing a new roof, making it watertight will not only rectify the issues but will save energy and heating costs meaning less CO2 emissions.

Planning permission will be submitted for this application.

Local support / evidence of need

The Village Hall is the only Community Hall space in Ashill.

It is used on a regular basis by a variety of different groups these include, the local school, lunch groups, craft workshops, cooking classes for the under 5's, as well as being used for Polling and general elections.

The hall is also available for private functions.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Scaffolding	£13,680
Removal of old asbestos roof	£2,650
New roof panels	£4,370
Roof Strengthening	£16,724
Total	£37,424

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£2,000
Own Funds	Secured	£2,000
Local donations	Secured	£6,095
National Lottery Awards for all	Secured	£10,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	Secured	£5,000
Wessex Water Foundation	Secured	£3,000



South Somerset District Council

The Somerset Fund	Secured	£2,500
Local Fund raising	Secured	£883
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£5,946
Total		£37,424

3. Merriott Tithe Barn Project

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Merriott Tithe Barn Committee
Project:	Installing new guttering, new flooring, and damp-proof membrane at Merriott Tithe Barn
Total project cost:	£21,391
Amount requested from SSDC:	£8,185
% amount requested	38.3%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	2
D Need for Project	10	9
E Capacity of Organisation	15	10
F Financial need	7	3
Total	38	27

Background

The Tithe Barn was gifted to Merriott Church in 1913 for the benefit of the village. It is held by the diocese and is run on a day-to-day basis by the Tithe Barn Committee.

Tithe Barn was given to the Church for the benefit of the village and the church. The Committee has a duty to preserve this 14th century building for use by a wide range of groups and clubs in Merriott.

Parish*	Merriott
Parish Population	1979
No. of dwellings	882

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The Tithe Barn is in danger of becoming unsafe, currently part of the hall has been cordoned off due to falling masonry. The west wall has moved, and heli-pins need to be inserted to stop further movement. External and internal repointing with lime mortar is necessary. This is the first phase of work that needs to be completed before the second phase can start, this work has been funded by the committee and external funds.

The Community grant application is to support phase 2 of the project, the floor is a major concern because it's becoming unsafe for users due to uneven surfaces and the risk of injury from screws and nails. This floor was replaced a hundred years ago and has subsequently become damp and rotten. Repeated short-term attempts at repair with screws and nails, have now rusted and the boards are moving and uneven. Dampness from the floor is causing secondary damage to the wall panelling. They will remove this floor, install DPM and a new wooden floor. They will also replace the plastic guttering, which has become bent and unfit for purpose, causing damage to the west wall. They aim to replace this with cast iron guttering, which would be longer lasting and return the external appearance of the Tithe Barn to its original appearance

Local support / evidence of need

Merriott currently has two community halls. Merriott Tithe Barn is the smaller village hall in Merriott. This is a large village of some 2,500 residents. The Hall is used by Scouts and Cubs, Merriott Majorettes, Gardening Club, Merriott Dog Training, Gardening Club, Bridge Club, Badminton Club, Minnows Parent and Baby Group, Evergreen Games and Social Club and Café Church. There is no capacity for these activities to move into the Village Hall as it is fully booked every day except weekends. The groups which are using the Tithe Barn value it as a lower cost, smaller venue and recognise its value in the village. Around three hundred people use the hall every week.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Remove plastic guttering and replace with cast iron guttering	£5,188.
Remove wooden floor and install DPM and install new wooden flooring	£16,203
Total	£21,391

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	See below*
Own Funds	Secured	£750
Awards for all	Secured	£9,956
Merriott Heritage Trust	Secured	£2,500
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£8,185



Total		£21,391
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Officer to provide an update at the meeting

4. George Reynolds Centre Project

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Crewkerne Town Council
Project:	Installing four new air conditioning units at the George Reynolds Centre
Total project cost:	£9,350
Amount requested from SSDC:	£4,675
% amount requested	50%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	2	2
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	8
E Capacity of Organisation	15	8
F Financial need	7	2
Total	38	22

Background

The George Reynolds Centre was built in 2012, it is owned by Crewkerne Town Council and run as an open-to-all sports, recreation, youth, and community facility. It has two rooms suitable for events, functions and meetings and a well-equipped kitchen and bar.

Parish information

Parish*	Crewkerne
Parish Population	7,000
No. of dwellings	3,427

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The Town Council would like to install air conditioning units in the two meeting rooms at the George Reynolds Centre (GRC). The GRC was built with large glass frontage to enable good views of the sports pitches below but in summer the rooms heat up, making them uncomfortable for users.

Local support / evidence of need

It is used throughout the year by the rugby club, football club and cricket club and twice a week during terms times it is home to the town's youth group in the evenings.

It is used by a range of community groups, including U3A, toddler music groups and many more community groups. It is available for private functions.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Supply and fit 4 x wall mounted inverter heat pump units with condensing units, including all wiring, pipework, labour, and commissioning.	£9,350
Total	£9,350

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£4,675
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£4,675
Total		£9,350

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that the four grants totalling £28,801 is awarded.

Financial Implications

The total grant request for all 4 applications above is £28,802. If awarded this will be funded through the Area West Community Grant capital and revenue fund. There is currently £22,716 Area West Capital funding available and will reduce this balance of £0. There is also £6,535 Area West revenue funding available and will reduce this balance to £449.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.



Council Plan Implications

Council Plan themes and Areas of focus for 2021/22

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities

To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life.

- Work with partners to support people in improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Enable quality cultural, leisure and sport activities

Environment

To keep South Somerset clean, green, and attractive and respond to the climate and ecological emergency we will work in partnership to:

- Continue the delivery of the Environment Strategy action plan, reducing our carbon emissions by 10% every year, to reach carbon neutrality by 2030

Equality and Diversity Implications

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposals?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	No
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
Eg the project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.	

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3-year period of this award.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Additional conditions applying to Play & Facilities

- All play equipment considered for purchase will have passed an EN1176 test.
- All play equipment installed will have Impact Absorbing Surfacing (safety surfacing) installed to EN1177 standard.
- All play equipment installed will have a Post Installation Inspection completed by a fully trained person.
- Ensure that the play area is inspected and maintained in accordance with EN1176 or a successive standard
- Provide good quality signage to buildings and facilities.

Special conditions

Projects need to be completed within 6 months of award letter being signed.