Batheaston Parish Council

PRO-ACTIVE GRANT OF £1,000 FOR BATHEASTON NEW VILLAGE HALL

PROPOSAL FOR DECISION-MAKING

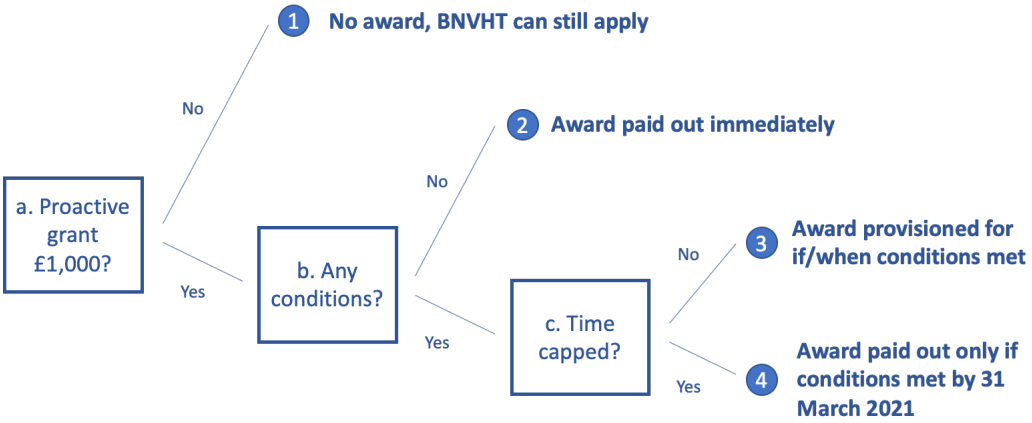
1. On 21 July 2020, Cllr McCarthy reported the existence of a BPC pledge to grant £1,000 to the building of the New Village hall to the Finance Committee:

   As requested, I have looked back over the minutes as I felt this was indeed important and I have found the first notification of the pledge for BNVH in the attached Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on 21 November 2017. Please see G-786 (c), and;
   Please see the attached minutes dated 13 March 2018 - C-495 (b) Special Payments "It was reiterated that £1000 is 'pledged' to the BNVH.

2. Considering this pledge at Finance Committee on 18 August 2020, the Clerk advised that this pledge was legal-technically no longer valid as councils cannot bind later councils to unfunded commitments. Council in neither 2017 nor 2018 took steps to provision for the pledge.

3. Today, BNVHT are fundraising to complete the build. Their risk is that their existing and any new funds become sunk into an inoperable building if the outstanding amount is not raised in full.

4. Therefore, Council is now asked to consider the following:



   a. **Do we proactively offer a new grant of £1,000 to BNVHT?** Our policy states that grants are applied for, not given out. But there is an argument that if we asked residents, they would want us to offer a grant;

      If there is a majority yes to (a);

   b. **Do we attach any conditions precedent to the grant?** If we do, these condition(s) must pertain to the purpose of the grant, which to help mitigate the risk of not completing an operational build. A valid condition precedent is therefore e.g. to make payment subject to BNVHT securing sufficient and enforceable total funding to complete the build.

      If there is a majority yes to (b);

   c. **Do we time cap payment to this financial?** Our policy states that grants cannot be rolled over and thus technically our position should be "yes". However, time-capped commitments undermine efficient book building of funding and Council can account for rollover by provisioning the full amount in this financial year.