



LEONARD STANLEY

P A R I S H C O U N C I L

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Summary from the meeting held with Barbara Pond on Thursday 8th March 2018

In attendance: Cllr Sue Davies, Barbara Pond (GRCC) and Irena Litton (Clerk)

(Barbara Pond works for the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, but is funded by Stroud District Council to provide advice and support for community groups in applying for grants).

Grant opportunities; the Council is able to apply for a large amount of S.106 monies (from the Mankley Field development) and wishes to use the opportunity to deliver several large scale projects for the benefit of the Community. It is hoped that some of the money can be used as 'match funding' for grants.

Main Projects to capitalize on grant funding opportunities are the Village Hall and Pavilion. Care should be taken to ensure that any bids for grants don't conflict and potentially jeopardise one project or the other. Some grants will only be available to the VHMC and some only to the Parish Council, depending on the criteria such as ownership/responsibility or charity/local authority status.

Village Hall

The VHMC have submitted a wish list of improvements that they would like to see actioned.

Barbara recommended that the wish list is separated into two groups:

- a. Group 1 – the toilets and windows.
- b. Group 2 – Fixtures, fittings, decoration and everything else.

Barbara advised that to be successful in applying for grants; the applications need to be submitted in a way that reflects the objective. For example; the objective could be to retain and attract new users to the hall. From that objective you then identify what is required to achieve the objective – which could be re-decoration, new tables ...

Barbara has agreed to meet with the VHMC directly and is willing to guide them through the necessary processes that will be required in the grant application process. For example; consultation with existing users and the rest of the community. Barbara advised that the grant applications for the Village Hall should be led by the VHMC. This could cause issues with the application of S.106 monies; where the Parish Council would need to retain overall control.

Barbara said that it is possible for the Parish Council to 'gift' some of the S.106 monies to the VHMC. This would still need the appropriate governance and conditions attached; otherwise it would not meet with the criteria set out by Stroud District Council for the PC's application of S.106 funding. For example - the PC could gift an amount for the purchase of new tables; the VHMC would then have to supply a copy of the invoice to the PC showing that they had used the funds for that purpose.

By 'gifting' some funding to the VHMC, the VHMC are then in control of the way in which they use the money (subject to the conditions/governance). The VHMC can use the money to apply for grants having already secured 'match funding' normally required by grant providers.

The draw back for the VHMC on this is - that as the money has been gifted rather than the goods, it will be subject to VAT.

The VHMC may prefer the 'gift' option; however the loss of the 20% would be a major factor to consider. Therefore, the solution maybe to look at both options and use the different methods accordingly:-

- a. S.106 monies are applied for by the Parish Council (working with the VHMC) for the work associated with Group 1 (toilets and windows). – As the works/goods are 'ordered' by the PC then the VAT can be re-claimed on these major projects.
- b. The Parish Council could then also apply for S.106 monies specifically to 'gift' to the VHMC, towards the Group 2 list (fixtures and fittings). The VHMC have more control, can use the money to apply for match funding grants but can't reclaim the VAT.

Pavilion

As with the VH, grant applications are more likely to be successful once the objective has been identified. There is a good chance of obtaining grant funding from Sports England, as there has been an increase in households and the drive to increase sporting activity. The PC must first identify ways to increase sporting activity, how to appeal to a *wider diversity and ensuring that the community engages with any consultation that will be required.

Barbara will supply a contact, who has had great success in applying for sport related grants and she will also supply a template on how to proceed.

- Example given was to attract an older generation to participate could be the forming of a 'walking football' team.

