

## **Agenda Item 13 – Grant Request PTFA Trim Trail Willand School Playground**

### **Grant Request**

The Willand School PTFA are requesting a financial contribution of £3,000 from the Parish Council towards the installation of a Trim Trail in Willand School Playground for which they have been quoted £27,600.

### **Information Provided to support the grant**

The PTFA have made their request before the formal adoption of a grant policy scheduled to be considered at the same meeting as this application, with the policy to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, if approved. Whilst the formal process is not yet in place the same criteria should be applied.

The school has provided the following information:

- An email setting out the reasons for the request:

“Willand School currently have nearly 380 and the playground is severely lacking in equipment to help the children with their physical development. The equipment is not a replacement for anything broken... the KS2 playground is simply not fit for purpose and contains an area of grass and an area of tarmac with 2 multiskills goals. It's very underwhelming for the children to say the least.”

- Fundraising to date:

“As a PTFA we have been tirelessly working to raise these funds and during the period of 1st September 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 we raised £4952.32. We have hosted a Spring Fayre (£186.22), May Tuck Shop (£233.51), School Disco (£1378.45), Bags 2 School clothing collection (£164), Sports Day Refreshments (£174.73), June Tuck Shop (£72.06), Wonka Event (£472.15) and a July Tuck Shop (£174.). Furthermore since returning to the school we have hosted a bake sale which raised £134.13, a sale in association with Fab-Bricks (£171.). We commit every term to a £2 funding per child towards school trip and also a £10 contribution per child (roughly 60) towards the cost of a “Leavers Hoody.” Despite our desire to get this equipment we have continued to pay for these commitments and currently stand at £10 372.58 in the bank.

I hope you agree that our fundraising efforts are dedicated (especially since we are a small team and all parents who work full time) but lacking in the substance needed to get this equipment with any speed. We are also looking into the possibility of other grants but they aren't always applicable and take a large workload that we aren't always able to commit to.”

- A summary of income & expenditure and fundraising between May 2024 and February 2025.
- A copy of the Parentkind model constitution, which is their governance document.
- Minutes of a PTFA meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 looking at fundraising for the project and obtaining a quote.

### **Cost & Contribution**

The quote obtained is for £27,600 including VAT. A copy has been provided.

The school have confirmed that they are willing to contribute £13,000 to the project from their school sports premium budget. Email received from the school Headteacher.

The PTFA therefore have to find the remaining funds and have been fundraising as previously set out in the paper . Their current bank balance stands at C.£11,000 but they have certain other commitments. Nevertheless, they are a good way towards their target.

The PTFA are requesting a sum of £3,000 as a contribution from the Parish Council.

### **Budget & Spending Power**

The Parish Council agreed to transfer some of the predicted underspend for 2024-25 to a local community projects earmarked reserve as well as approving a Capital Budget of £6000 in the 2025-26 budget. Although the exact figure allocated from the underspend will not be known until the 31<sup>st</sup> March it is anticipated that overall funds available for local projects will be around £20,000.

Grants are a discretionary spend and can be made using S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This can be spent for the direct benefit of the Parish, or all or some of its inhabitants.

S.137 allows for non-statutory spending up to a limit. For 2024-25 the limit is £10.81 per elector, which equates to C.£30,000 for Willand for the year. Spend for the year was £525 on donations and a small grant.

The funding for local projects will be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and the S.137 limit for the financial year 2025-2026, which is not yet known, will apply, there is usually a small increase in the amount allowed per elector. The amount requested in this application would use around 10% of the limit available.

The Parish Council should not fund any project that is already the responsibility of another statutory body. It can however fund additional items or projects that are not a statutory provision. The application is being made by the PTFA not the school, and whilst the school is making a substantial contribution, the Headteacher has confirmed to the Clerk in writing that it is not part of the school's curriculum or premises provision and therefore it is not a statutory requirement for the education authority to provide.

### **Options for consideration**

1. Decide to make no contribution.
2. Decide to approve the requested sum of £3,000.
3. Decide to approve a different contribution sum, either above or below the requested sum, subject to budget and spending powers.

### **Payment of Grant, if approved**

As set out in the proposed policy, a formal letter will be issued, to be signed by both parties, agreeing to the grant provision, amount and payment terms and conditions.

The grant will normally be paid on provision of written confirmation from the PTFA that the project is satisfactorily complete along with a copy of the invoice. The Parish Council can, at its discretion, pay in advance or in staged payments where a copy of the order is provided. In such cases any unspent monies must be returned to the Council.

**Debbie Bird**  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**  
**February 2025**