

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Chief Officer: Chris Shaw

Council Offices, 78 Church Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 5PB Telephone: 01606 415510
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16th June 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the GRANTS COMMITTEE to be held in the COUNCIL OFFICES.

78 CHURCH ROAD, NORTHWICH on MONDAY 23rd June 2025 at 6.30 p.m.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Shaw

Chief Officer

AGENDA

- 1 To elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year**
- 2. Apologies for absence or absences**
- 3. Declaration of interest**
 - * Members to declare any interest under the following categories:
 - * Pecuniary interest
 - * Outside bodies interest
 - * Family, friend or close associate interest
- 4. Signing of the Minutes**

Of the Grants Committee meeting held on 25th March 2025
- 5. Requests for Donations**

Three completed applications have been received (copies attached)
The decision of the Members is requested on amounts to be granted (if any) and under which powers and duties these grants should be placed.
The decision of the Committee is requested
- 6. Date of next Grants Committee Meeting**

To be confirmed

Part B

In accordance with Local Government Act Public Admittance to Meetings Act 1960, the following agenda items are to be considered in the absence of Press and Public

- 7. To approve nominations for the Town Mayors Award**

Three completed applications have been received (copies attached)
The decision of the Members is requested on awards to be granted (if any) and under which powers and duties these grants should be placed.
The decision of the Committee is requested

Councillors: Cllr Andy Kent
Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Julie Macdonald
Cllr Lee Siddall

Cllr Rachel Waterman
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Tom Melville
Cllr Olwyn Dean
Cllr Patricia Parkes

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GRANTS COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 25th MARCH 2025

Members Present Cllr Julie Macdonald
Cllr Catriona Stewart
Cllr Bob Cernik
Cllr Kate Cernik
Cllr Patricia Parkes
Cllr Janet Illidge

Also Present Chris Shaw - Chief Officer
Cath Kirwan – Deputy Chief Officer/RFO

GC 24/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lee Siddall and Cllr Tom Melville

GC 24/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests.

GC 24/09 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 12th December 2024 and noted at the Town Council meeting on Monday 6th January 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Kate Cernik, seconded by Cllr Catriona Stewart, all agreed.

GC 24/10 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

Seven requests were submitted. Members discussed each of their individual merits before making their decisions.

It was resolved that the following donations be made.

No Limits – Disability Awareness Event to be awarded £791.00.

1st Hartford Scouts and Mid-Cheshire explorers Kandersteg (Switzerland International Expedition) – Members declined due to lack of information covering a number of factors. Applicant will be contacted and advised to resubmit with additional information.

CNC Project/Mid Cheshire Community Shed – Members declined this application due to lack of information covering a number of factors. Applicant will be contacted and advised to resubmit with additional information.

Date

Cllr Julie Macdonald
Chair

Free Cakes for Kids (Northwich and Winsford) – Members agreed to award £300 for the Northwich part of this project.

Little Lions go Wild – Members agreed to award £736.

Cheshire Without Abuse (Known as MyCWA) – Members agreed to award £620.

Cheshire 7s Cup – Members agreed to award £225.

GC 24/11 TOWN MAYORS AWARD

Members revised the application form for the Town Mayors Awards Scheme. This will now be published on our website and nominations will be submitted to the Grants committee.

GC 24/12 DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The date of next meeting to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6pm

Date

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Cllr Julie Macdonald
Chair

Report to : Grants Committee

Meeting Date : 23rd June 2025

Agenda Item : 3

Prepared By : Cath Kirwan

Subject : Grant Applications



Two completed applications have been received (copies attached)

The decision of the Members is requested on amounts to be granted (if any) and under which powers and duties these grants should be placed.

The decision of the Committee is requested

Northwich Town Council
Grants Application Form (maximum £1500)

Project title: Access to counselling for individuals in financial hardship			
Organisation's Name: Cheshire Autism and Practical Support			
Applicant's Name: Ian Atherton			
Address: ChAPS Autism ARK Yarwood Arm Navigation Road Northwich CW81BE			
Telephone 0344 850 8607	Mobile	e-mail ian.atherton@cheshireautism.org.uk	
Estimated cost of project:			
Description	Materials	Labour	Total
Adult person centered counselling (6-week block)	Resources to support relaxation and wellbeing £00	Specialist counsellors to work with 10 clients for 6 -week blocks £20 x 6 x 10 = £1200	£13000
Sub-total	£100	£1200	£1300
TOTAL	£100	£1200	£1300

Details of contributions from other organisations?	
	£ 0
Total amount of grant applied for	£ 1300

Project Description:

Please set out what your project aims and objectives are as clearly as possible – you may continue a separate sheet if necessary

Cheshire Autism Practical Support (ChAPS), established in 2009 by parents and professionals, was created to address the lack of autism-specific services in Northwich. With over 600 member families, ChAPS has become a trusted provider of specialist support to autistic individuals, their families, schools, and professionals. Our mission is to empower neurodiverse individuals and their families by fostering inclusive, informed communities where autism is understood, respected, and celebrated.

The growing mental health crisis, pressure on MHS services, compounded by economic hardship, has made access to affordable services increasingly difficult. Many individuals in our community, especially our autistic members, are unable to afford to access the low-cost counselling services we offer. This unmet need is being felt nationally and was highlighted by a recent survey of 1,000 adults in therapy by MIND, which found that **seventy percent** of people either limited their sessions or temporarily suspended treatment due to cost and **almost half** were worried about continuing to pay'.

'indeed it is fair to say we have seen enquires increase locally where cost has been raised as a potential barrier' and 16 Cheshire members withdraw their membership and concessionary access to counselling due to being, 'in financial Difficulty' (IFD)

Project Aim

We are seeking funding to launch a Community Counselling Fund Pilot; this is a targeted initiative designed to provide funded counselling to neurodiverse individuals in Northwich who are unable to afford therapy. This pilot will allow us to support those most in need with timely, person-centered, trauma-informed counselling.

Objectives

To Provide funded counselling - Offering a block of 6 one-to-one sessions to 10 individuals from the local neurodiverse community who are currently unable to access support due to financial hardship.

Create a welcoming therapeutic space - Use funding to purchase creative and sensory resources, such as emotion cushions, tactile quilts, storyboards, roleplay props (e.g., figurines, masks), and therapeutic tools like 'Deep Speak' cards to enrich

the counselling experience.

Reach underserved groups - Work in partnership with local community organisations to ensure individuals who might not normally access mental health support are referred into the programme.

Further evaluate impact - Implement clear monitoring and feedback mechanisms to measure outcomes, refine our approach, and build a strong evidence base for future funding bids.

Impact

The pilot will support emotional wellbeing, build resilience, and promote positive mental health for neurodiverse individuals. The positive ripple effects will be felt across families, schools, and the wider community. With professional, accessible counselling, clients will be better equipped to manage anxiety, depression, trauma, and daily life challenges.

Sustainability and Value

Funding from Northwich Town Council will not only provide immediate support but help us demonstrate the value of accessible counselling for the neurodiverse community. With measurable outcomes, we aim to attract further investment and expand our low-cost provision in the future.

By supporting this initiative, you will help break down barriers to mental health support and ensure that financial difficulty does not prevent anyone from getting the help they need.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this project further and share how your support can help transform lives.

Northwich Town Council
Grants Application Form (maximum £1500)

Project title: Community firework night

Organisation's Name: Leftwich Community Primary School

Applicant's Name: Emma Rimmer

Address: Leftwich Community Primary School, Old Hall Road, Leftwich CW9 8DH

Telephone <u>01606 800305</u>	Mobile	e-mail <u>fole@leftwichprimary.cheshire.sch.uk</u>
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Estimated cost of project:

Description	Materials	Labour	Total
contribution to this years community firework night from NE Entertainment			£2750.00
Total cost £2750.00			
Sub-total			
TOTAL			£2750.00

Details of contributions from other organisations? <u>We have contacted our local councillor and surrounding areas councillors for contribution. Awaiting update</u>	£
Total amount of grant applied for	£ <u>1800.00</u>

Project Description:

Please set out what your project aims and objectives are as clearly as possible - you may continue on a separate sheet if necessary

If we are lucky enough to receive a contribution, this would contribute hugely to the community fireworks display night for the local community and friends / Parents of leftwich Community Primary School. Upon receiving the contribution this would allow us to keep the ticket price low, we are in an area of deprivation and 40% possibly more of our children are in receipt of free School meals. So providing free - low events for all to enjoy is something we thrive upon. Children have potentially missed out on events over the last few years due to cost and many parents are unable to make other events due to them not having transport. Our local PCSO always attends and supports the event. We advertise the event locally, to the surrounding schools and to the wider community, on event that we are pleased to share with everyone

Signed on behalf of the applying organisation:

Dated: 29/4/2025

Position:

Friends of
leftwich PTA.

Please return your completed form either via e-mail or by post.

Northwich Town Council Office, 78 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB
e-mail lizaclansey@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Northwich Town Council
Grants Application Form (maximum £1500)

Project title: Solar Array			
Organisation's Name: Winnington Park Recreation Club Ltd.			
Applicant's Name: Zak McCombie			
Address: 6 Blueworm Court, Winnington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4UL			
Telephone	Mobile	e-mail	
	07584 044 090	Zak@mccombiegroup.co.uk.	
Estimated cost of project:			
Description	Materials	Labour	Total
Roof mounted solar panels complimented with ground mounted solar panels	Circa £30k	Circa £30k.	Circa £60k.
Sub-total			
TOTAL			£ 60k.
Details of contributions from other organisations? none as of yet but the club will be applying for more due to the expected cost of the proposed solar scheme.			£
Total amount of grant applied for			£1,500

Project Description: Solar Array at Winnington Park Recreation Club.

Please set out what your project aims and objectives are as clearly as possible – you may continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Winnington Park Recreation Club Ltd (WPRC) has struggled financially for a number of years and has very recently faced the very real risk of falling into administration with Northwich Town Council and the local MP Andrew Cooper involved in numerous meetings to try to prevent this happening.

Fortunately outside investment has managed to prevent the building and sports grounds going into administration and kept the company solvent. One of the biggest costs that affects the company is that of the electricity and utilities bills. The building also needs modernising internally too but it is the running costs which are really hurting the business. The electric and utilities bills are currently running at circa £5k per month which is extremely expensive.

As part of the turnaround plans for the club and to reduce the clubs overheads it is proposed that there be roof mounted solar panels along with ground mounted solar panels. With the building needing so many panels to reduce the electricity demand from the grid, there will also need to be a small substation size housing unit. This proposed ~~solar~~ scheme will reduce the energy cost down to circa £2k per month which is a circa 60% reduction. WPRC is a non for profit club and whilst the company has been saved from administration, it is the expensive energy costs which are killing the business.

Signed on behalf of the applying organisation:

Z. McGee

Dated: 25/04/2025

Position: Director

Please return your completed form either via e-mail or by post.

Northwich Town Council Office, 78 Church Road, Northwich, CW9 5PB
e-mail lizaclansey@northwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Report to : Grants Committee

Meeting Date : 23rd June 2025

Agenda Item : 7 (Part B)

Prepared By : Cath Kirwan

Subject : Town Mayors Award



Part B

In accordance with Local Government Act Public Admittance to Meetings Act 1960, the following agenda items are to be considered in the absence of Press and Public

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