The Old Vicarage

Brompton Regis TA22 9NN

July 26, 2024

Sarah Buchanan
Secretary, Brompton Regis Parish Council

Dear Sarah,

I write to request grant support for the Village Green under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which authorises a local council to spend money for the direct benefit of its area, or part of its area, or all or some of its inhabitants..

Since taking over as Chair of the charity that owns and maintains the Village Green I have been considering our business model: what we spend, and how we pay for that.

I want to divide the costs into two sorts: operational – the regular costs of looking after the Green, such as mowing and insurance; and then capital costs, paying for new, larger items or projects, such as last year's widening and re-laying of the path through the Green.

The latter we will seek to find one-off grants for from funders outside the community, topped up with more local funds. For example, we want to replace the climbing frame in the play area, which we hope the Morrisons Charitable Fund will pay for.

On the operational costs, I am approaching the three main local grant-making bodies – the Parish Council, Gymkhana and Show and Lunch Club – to get a feel for whether you might look favourably at regular annual grant applications to cover some of these costs and, if so, roughly how much you might feel able to contribute and what you would feel comfortable funding. I realise you cannot commit to a pre-agreed annual sum, and we would not expect that. But some sort of guidance as well as responding favourably to this year's grant request would be most welcome.

Many have suggested we approach the Council to cover the annual costs of insurance and the ROSPA report, these being the only two items of expenditure that we are legally obliged to meet.

The current annual cost for those two items is currently £315, which we would like to apply for this year. Of course, costs vary over the years and insurance seems to be particularly driven by inflation. However, if you were able to indicate that you were happy with spend in this area and roughly that sot of amount, this would help us in our planning.

For your information, the Lunch Club has committed £400 for third party costs, such as hedge-trimming; I am hopeful that the Gymkhana and Show will commit a further £400 to cover maintenance of and petrol for the mower.

Separately, I would like to make a one-off application for £100. Our land between the lower hedge of the play area and David Hannah's property is currently just brambles and nettles. I have been discussing with David various options and want to put in something that is both attractive

and supports wildlife. We would like to plant it with a beech hedge, providing double hedging for wildlife as well as looking attractive all year round (note that it will be seen by residents and visitors walking up the road). We also believe it will act as a further deterrent to children getting through the hedge and playing on the edge of the wall into David's front drive – a significant drop.

We will clear the area and plant the saplings. These will be sourced from Exmoor Trees, just outside Exford, at a cost of £1.50 per sapling. With a discount the right amount of saplings will cost abut £100. It is this we would welcome a grant for, helping to promote our charitable aims and provide something more attractive for the village.

With thanks for your support.

Charles

Charles Stewart-Smith
Chair, The George Meadow Millennium Green Trust