

# RESOURCES AND GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members of the Resources and General Services Committee are summoned to attend a Meeting at **7.30pm** on

### Wednesday, 5 October 2022

at Loughton Library and Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD to transact the business as shown in the agenda.

## Mark Squire Town Clerk

28 September 2022

Councillor J Jennings (Chairman)
Councillor M Owen (Vice Chairman)

Councillors

R Brookes B Cohen
S Murray M Stubbings

W Kauffman

Note to Councillors:

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please phone your apologies to the office on 020 8508 4200.

#### AGENDA

#### 1 Apologies for absence

To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

Councillors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda.

#### 3 Confirmation of Minutes

To CONFIRM the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022.

#### 4 Public Representations

To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Committee in accordance with no 5, Appendix C, of the Standing Orders.

#### 5 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

To report (for discussion only) on any further significant information / matters that may be of interest to Committee members

#### **6** Training and Conferences

The Town Clerk attended the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Essex Branch Exec Committee meeting via zoom on the 15 September 22, and the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO their networking hour via zoom on the same day. Both meetings were very informative. They will also be attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SLCC at Essex County Hall on 14 October 22.

Cllr Wixley and The Town Clerk attended the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) 78<sup>th</sup> AGM and Conference at Hylands House on 22 September 22.

To receive and note.

#### 7 Christmas Closedown Arrangements 2022

In line with the existing Town Council policy agreed in February 2008 and updated October 2021, the office is operational with 'skeleton staffing' and reduced hours. The Christmas period will therefore be:

Friday 23 December	Closed 12 noon
Monday 26 December	Closed
Tuesday 27 December	Closed
Wednesday 28 December	10am – 3pm
Thursday 29 December	10am – 3pm
Friday 30 December	10am - 12.45pm
Monday 2 January	Closed

To receive and note.

#### 8 Citizens Awards

The Committee is asked to reaffirm its commitment to the annual Citizen Awards, the cut-off date for entries being 31 January 2023. Community groups and local schools will be approached, and social media publicity will be used to further promote the awards. The award presentations to be made again at the next Annual Town Meeting in March 2023.

#### 9 Annual Town Meeting

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 March 2023, commencing at 8pm in the Murray Hall. Whilst this is not a council meeting, all Town Councillors are expected to attend. The Committee is asked if it wishes to continue with the format used at last year's meeting by inviting local organisations and voluntary groups, particularly those in receipt of Financial Assistance from the Council, to mount displays at the event to attract more public interest. The organisations successful in their grant applications for 2023/24 would also be presented with a certificate by the Town Mayor. The meeting is usually concluded with refreshments and an opportunity for members of the public to speak informally with their Councillors.

#### 10 Finance

#### 10.1 Current Financial Position

- The current financial position as at 31 July 2022 is attached together with details of the funds available from earmarked reserves (see attached pages 7-8).
- A note of the Council's current bank balances and most recent reconciliations are attached (see pages 9 15).

#### 10.2 Accounts Paid

Payments totalling £330,330.06 as detailed on payment schedules no. 353-358 have been made since the report to the meeting on 5 July 2022 (see pages 16-21). Schedules and accompanying invoices are available at the Council offices for inspection.

For information, details of all Council payments in excess of £500 are provided on the Council's website under the Finance and transparency / Schedule of Payments section.

#### 11 Internal Financial Check

To note that Councillor Murray visited the office on the 24 August 2022 and undertook a financial check on Purchase Orders and Receipts from the start of the 2022/23 financial year until the end of July 2022.

To receive and note.

#### 12 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22

PKF Littlejohn LLP, the external auditors, have signed and returned section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2021/22, without any comments. This was dated 12 September 2022.

Notice of 'Conclusion of Audit', which finalises the yearly audit requirements, dated 20 September 2022, has been posted on the Town Council's noticeboards and website.

To receive and note.

#### 13 Internal Audit

The interim internal audit from Heelis & Lodge will take place on 30 January 2023.

To receive and note.

## 14 Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) central external auditor appointment arrangements

The Committee is asked to review the correspondence received from the SAAA on pages 22 – 23 and AGREE if it wishes to remain in the central external auditor appointment arrangements, and NOT opt out.

Recommend remaining in the existing framework, as used by the vast majority of Town and Parish Councils as there is no particular reason to opt out at this juncture.

#### 15 Book of Condolence

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) have recommended that all the condolences are grouped into a Book of Condolence be included within a district bound volume, which can be stored at the Epping Forest Museum.

Recommend this way forward, subject to keeping copies of the Loughton based condolence messages, for prosperity.

#### 16 Remembrance Service

The Town Council annually makes a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion in support of the Poppy Appeal and towards the cost of the wreath laid by the Town Mayor at the annual Remembrance Service to be held this year on 13 November 2022.

The Committee is asked to confirm that it wishes to make a similar donation this year. Payment will need to be approved under the General Power of Competence.

#### 17 Financial Assistance

17.1 The Committee are asked to consider and agree whether they wish for the Financial Assistance scheme to continue in 2023/24.

#### 17.2 General Applications 2022/23

Members requested in the last Resources and General Services Committee

(R & GS), (5 July 2022 -minute no. RG122) that Grant a Smile CIC be asked for the further information, as listed below, for their understanding and consideration, due to insufficient information in their original application:

- A more detailed breakdown of costings and understanding required for this project, including showing:
- How and on what the project and any potential funding would be spent.

See pages 24 - 26 for the further information received from Grant a Smile CIC, along with their original application on pages 27 - 37, for Members to consider.

For information, as at 31 August 2022 there is currently a balance of £7,924.02 of unallocated general grants in the 2022/23 Financial Assistance budget.

There is also £10,970.32 held in Earmarked Reserves, which includes the funds (£3,346.32) donated to the Council by Loughton Film Club following the club ceasing to operate.

The overall total balance remaining in the 2022/23 budget, including earmarked reserves and donation as at end of August 2022, of £18,894.34.

The Committee are reminded it is Council policy to withhold 10% (£3,000 for 2022/23 budget) in case of emergency applications during the year, and that the £8,500 awarded to Citizens Advice – Epping Forest District for 2022/23 is budgeted separately.

For Members information, as list of grants awarded to date in 2022/23 is listed below.

Organisation	Amount Granted £	Purpose of Grant
Alfie James Productions	200.00	Performance skills workshop
Affordable Counselling	500.00	Counselling sessions
Basics Essex	1,000.00	Assistance towards equipping a new doctor
Epping Forest ReUSE	484.98	Operational Costs (safety boots/uniform)
Lopping Hall Art c/o Lopping Hall	300.00	Hire of display boards for exhibition
Loughton Chigwell & District Synagogue	500.00	Supply of weekly food parcels
Loughton Voluntary Care Association	391.00	Phone bill and premises rental
Restore Grow Community Garden	2,500.00	Running Costs
Restore Community Noah's Ark	3,000.00	Crafts, toys and running costs
Restore Community Oakwood Hill Community Centre	3,000.00	Operational Costs
Restore Community Oakwood Hill Youth Club Project	2,000.00	Operational costs and equipment
Samaritans Redbridge Branch	700.00	Running Costs
Spark a branch of Worth Unlimited	1,500.00	'Complex cases' counselling service
3Food4U	3,500.00	Rent of foodbank venue
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	1,500.00	Operational Costs
The Lopping Endowment Corporate Trustee Limited	1,000.00	Defibrillator
Total awarded	£22,075.98	

New Financial Assistance Application – Further information received for consideration

Organisation	Amount requested £	Item	Power
Grant A Smile CIC	2,500.00	The One Community Project - a community wide one day even celebrating diversity and culture	General Power of Competence (GPC)

#### 18 Utility Costs

The astronomical rise in utility costs has been well documented and the effects will be felt by the Town Council for some considerable time. At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear from the Town Council's energy broker. We are also continually analysing our independent research on, how the Government's announcements to support businesses (including Town and Parish Councils) will impact.

A further update will be provided in the meeting.

To receive and note.

#### 19 Budget Considerations for 2023/2024

- 19.1 In addition to the spiralling utility costs, the Town Council's van needs replacing (Recreation Committee agenda item 15 and subsequent minute no RC140 refers). It was agreed in principle to acquire a new 'hybrid van' through a leasing scheme. The office will continue to work through the options available and report back on an urgent basis .
- 19.2 Currently, the statutory Local Government salary offer for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023 has not yet been agreed. The two-year pay deal put to the National Joint Council (NJC) Trade Unions would see:
  - With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above (i.e. all salaries).
  - With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances.

On recent years' experience, this settlement is unlikely to be settled quickly and the current offer is already out of sync given the current inflation levels.

- 19.3 Precept To note that rumours are resurfacing again in the Local Government Sector that the UK Government may decide to impose the 2 per cent increase cap on Parish and Town Councils precept requests.
- 19.4 Over the last three years or so, Town Council working budget expenses have largely been based on a 2 to 3 % p.a. increase. The latest inflation rate for the end of August 2022 is 8.6% (published 14 September 2022). At the time of writing, the Bank of England expects the inflation rate to exceed 10% for a number of months, before gradually coming down.
- 19.5 The office is just starting the budget process for 2023/24 which will be very challenging in the current economic climate. An internal review of potential cost savings and income opportunities for the Town Council's halls has been undertaken (the principal budget area of energy consumption). A critical review of each budget line will be completed and any areas that are not essential may have to be removed.

The above factors, highlight that the next years' budget is going to be difficult.

To receive and note.

#### 20 Policies Review

Members are asked to review the following policies, for which there are no changes to be made. In view of the volume of paperwork, members are requested to look at the document section on the Town Council website or view via the links below.

- **20.1 Equal Opportunities Policy** Recommended next review October 2024. Equal Opportunities Policy - Updated Oct 2020 WA.pdf (loughton-tc.gov.uk)
- 20.2 Complaints Policy Recommended next Review December 2024.
  <u>Code of Conduct Complaints procedure 2012 Reviewed June 2021.pdf</u>
  (loughton-tc.gov.uk)

#### 21 Buckingham Court

Members have recently been informed that the move has been rescheduled for the week commencing Monday 21 November 2022. A number of key tasks have already been completed, including new carpet tiles on the ground floor, a fresh coat of paint in all rooms and a deep clean of the building. Telephone engineers and our IT consultant have been booked for the telecommunications and broad band transfer. The office will continue to work through the long checklist of logistical and admin tasks over the coming weeks.

Over a period of months, an 'archiving clearance' project has been completed at Murray Hall, destroying all old historic files that are superfluous but retaining the paperwork that needs to be kept for statutory requirements, following Local Government guidelines. This will assist the Buckingham Court move as historic files current held in the Library Office can now be moved to Murray Hall for archiving.

Total existing Buckingham Court Earmarked Funds of £7,000 will be totally utilised for the move and initial transfer / set -up costs. Working expenses this financial year will exceed budget, (additional costs were not factored into last year's budget setting as the decision had not been made to move premises). However much of these costs would have been incurred anyway, as the same work would have needed to be completed if the building was to be rented out externally.

The Town Clerk will provide further background information and an oral update.

#### 22 Office photocopier

Recommendations from other Essex Clerks along with further independent research, has enabled the Office to put together a detailed summary of suppliers / choices for a new printer for Buckingham Court.

The summary will be discussed, considered and agreed, in accordance with minute number RG130 of this Committee (subject to the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman).

To receive and note.

Mark Squire TOWN CLERK 28 September 2022

#### Agenda item 10

# Loughton Town Council Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/07/2022 Month No: 4 Resources and General Services Committee Report

			Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Budget	Variance Annual Total	Funds Available	% of Budget
Resources and General Services	<u>al</u>							
Communication		Expenditure	17,146	5,422	19,155	13,733	13,733	28.3%
Office Expenses	(1)	Expenditure	15,166	4,113	13,700	9,587	9,587	30.0%
Audit		Expenditure	3,745	-1,600	3,010	4,610	4,610	-53.2%
Central Personnel		Expenditure	327,181	124,266	374,800	250,534	250,534	33.2%
Council Expenses		Expenditure	12,565	12,818	16,650	3,832	3,832	77.0%
		Income	150	0	0	0		
Other Services (RGS)	(2)	Expenditure	25,588	796	2,500	1,704	1,704	31.8%
Members' Expenses		Expenditure	1,680	0	2,760	2,760	2,760	0%
Buckingham Court	(3)	Expenditure	44,292	26,840	52,531	25,691	25,691	51.1%
	(4)	Income	4,442	0	10,000	10,000		0%
Service Re-charge	(5)	Expenditure	-283,000	0	-285,000	0	0	0.0%
Library		Expenditure	11,700	5,850	11,875	6,025	6,025	49.3%
Grants		Expenditure	32,400	2,800	38,500	35,700	35,700	7.3%

#### **INCOME – EXPENDITURE TOTALS**

R&GS Expenditure	208,463	181,305	250,481	69,176	69,176	72.4%
Income	<u>4,592</u>	<u>3,346</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>6,654</u>		<u>33.5%</u>
Net Expenditure over Income	<u>203,871</u>	<u>177,959</u>	<u>240,481</u>	62,522		

#### Notes:

- (1) Audit "Actual Year To Date" funds accrued to pay year end 2021/2022 invoices.
- (2) Council Expenses "Actual Year To Date" includes the Town Council annual Insurance.
- (3) The Service Recharge will be applied at the financial year-end.

Agenda item 10 cont'd Earmarked Reserves for 2022/2023:

A summary of the Committee's reserves showing the amounts available from reserves in this current financial year is provided below:

Resources and General Services Committee	31.07.22
Elections	14,854.81
Buckingham Court maintenance fund	2,000.00
Buckingham Court Rent Deposit	5,000.00
Financial Assistance Grants 2020/21	10,970.32
Total	32,825.13

Date: 08/08/2022			Loughton Town Council		Page
Time:12:36		F 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10	onciliation Statement as at 31/07 ashbook 1 - No 1 Current Accoun	NEW COLOR	User: JC(
Bank State	ment Account	Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Nat West n	o. 1 account		31/07/2022	78	65,201.47
					65,201.47
Unpresent	ed Cheques (M	inus)		Amount	
13/06/2022	10793 P123	Fred Collins		50.00	
13/06/2022	10781 P108	Cranbrook Ele	ctrics	19.20	
24/06/2022	10822 P162	Skyguard		117.87	
06/07/2022	10840 P207	Chris Buck		50.00	
06/07/2022	10842 P209	3Food4U		88.00	
06/07/2022	10827 P190	PPL PRS Ltd		134.79	
06/07/2022	10834 P200	TBS Hygiene I	Ltd	72.00	
13/07/2022	10844 P220	SPARK		1,500.00	
13/07/2022	10846 P222	R D Djemal		585.00	
28/07/2022	10867 P251	Lopping Endov	wment Corporate Tr	1,000.00	
28/07/2022	10847 P223	Ozan Oliver		95.00	
28/07/2022	10848 P224	Chubb Fire & 3	Security Ltd	5,744.56	
28/07/2022	10849 P228	Regional Wast	te Recycling Comme	488.80	
28/07/2022	10850 P229	PlayFix Limited	d	753.60	
28/07/2022	10851 P230	Chigwell (Lond	don) Ltd	3,301.80	
28/07/2022	10852 P231	Accredited Loc	ksmith Services	159.60	
28/07/2022	10853 P232	Arbtec Tree Se	ervices	600.00	
28/07/2022	10854 P234	Nisbets PLC		105.69	
28/07/2022	10855 P235	Apogee Corpo	ration Ltd	382.70	
28/07/2022	10856 P239	Pinnacle Esse	x	1,200.00	
28/07/2022	10857 P241	James Todd &	Co. Ltd.	109.62	
28/07/2022	10858 P242	Think Business	s Support Ltd	606.06	
28/07/2022	10859 P243	Gareth Griffith	t/a Greenhill	1,560.00	
28/07/2022	10860 P244	Portable Toilet	Hire (London)	540.00	
28/07/2022	10861 P245	Thames Secur	rity Shredding Ltd	64.20	
28/07/2022	10862 P246	Loughton Gard	dens & Landscapes	60.00	
28/07/2022	10863 P247	First Aid Cover	r Ltd	242.50	
28/07/2022	10864 P248	ANYWHERE D	DECKCHAIRS (Mr P Houg	480.00	
28/07/2022	10865 P249	Skyguard Ltd		77.76	
28/07/2022	10866 P250	ICCM		162.00	
28/07/2022	10868 P252	EDF Energy Li	td	274.34	
29/07/2022	SD39	Nusat Ahmed		500.00	
29/07/2022	SD40	Ravea Ali		500.00	
30/07/2022	DD P258	SSE		55.68	
31/07/2022	DD P262	First Business	Water Limited	38.29	
				112	21,719.06
				_	43,482.41
Receipts n	ot Banked/Clea	red (Plus)			
29/07/2022	R87			42.00	
29/07/2022	R87			779.00	

Date: 08/08/2022	Loughton Town Council	Page 2
Time: 12:36	Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/07/2022 for Cashbook 1 - No 1 Current Account	User: JCG
	Amount	Balances
		821.00
	_	44,303.41
	Balance per Cash Book is :-	44,303.41
	Difference is :-	0.00

Date: 08/08/2022			Loughton Town Council		Page
Time: 11:35			onc <mark>i</mark> liation <mark>Statement as at 3<sup>o</sup> ashbook 2 - No 2 Current Acc</mark>		User: J <mark>C</mark> C
Bank Staten	ment Accoun	t Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Nat West no.	. 2 account		31/07/2022	302	57,319.86
Unpresented	d Cheques (N	Minus)		Amount	57,319.86
28/07/2022	786 P272	HMRC only 120	0PW00111168	8,540.17	
28/07/2022	787 P273	Essex Pension	Fund	8,587.65	
					17,127.82
					40,192.04
Receipts no	t Banked/Cle	ared (Plus)			
				0.00	
					0.00
					40,192.04
			Balan	ce per Cash Book is :-	40,192.04
				Difference is :-	0.00

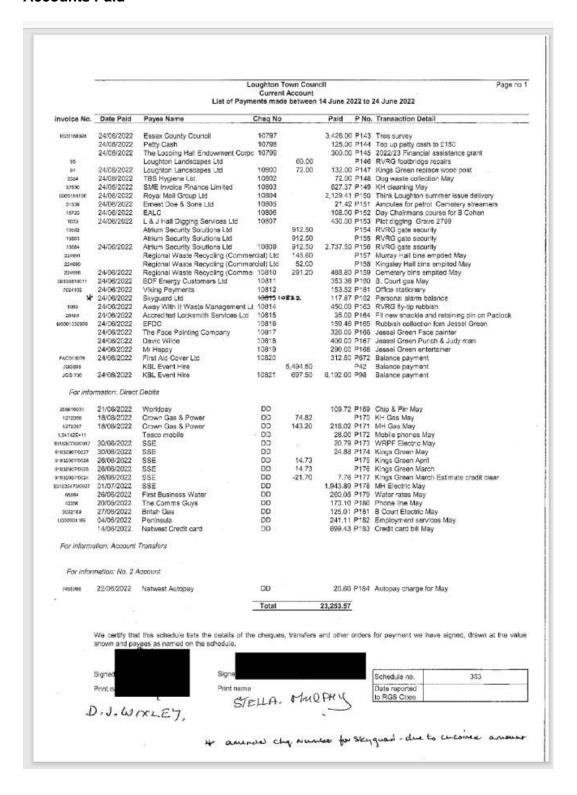
Date: 23/08/2022	ı	oughton Town Council		Page 1
Time: 14:31		ciliation Statement as at 31/0 c 3 - NatWest Business Rese		User: JCG
Bank Statement Account Na	ame (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
NatWest Business Reserve A	cc	31/07/2022	61	100,530.83
Unpresented Cheques (Mine	ue)		Amount	100,530.83
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			0.00	0.00
			· ·	100,530.83
Receipts not Banked/Cleare	ed (Plus)			5500 550
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				0.00
				100,530.83
		Balance	per Cash Book is :-	100,530.83
			Difference is :-	0.00

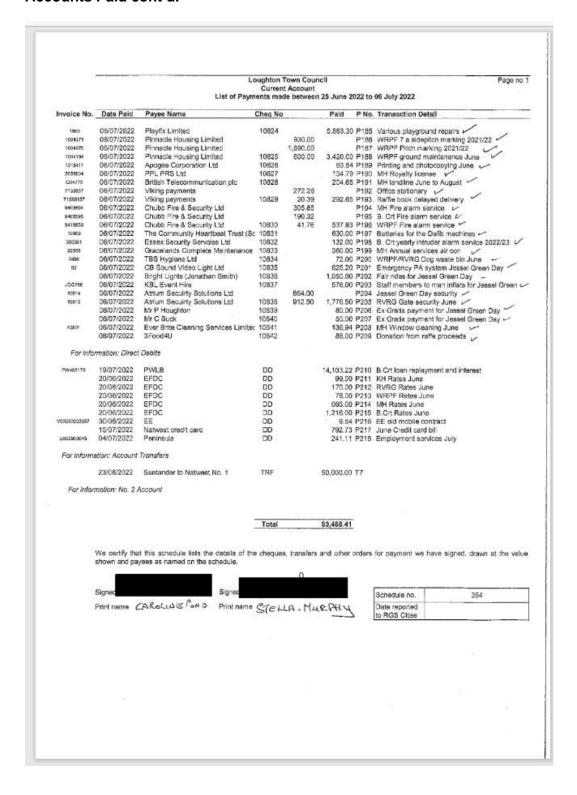
	Loughton Town Council		Page
			User: JC0
Name (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
	30/06/2022	82022	515,422.86
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inus)		·	
		0.00	0.00
		<u>⊗</u>	515,422.86
red (Plus)			
		0.00	0.00
		82 <u>-</u>	515,422.86
	Balance	e per Cash Book is :-	515,422.86
		Difference is :-	0.00
	for Cashboo	Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31. for Cashbook 4 - Santander Business Re  Name (s)  Statement Date  30/06/2022  inus)  ared (Plus)	Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/07/2022 for Cashbook 4 - Santander Business Reserve Acc  Name (s) Statement Date Page No  30/06/2022 82022  inus) Amount  0.00  ared (Plus)  Balance per Cash Book is :-

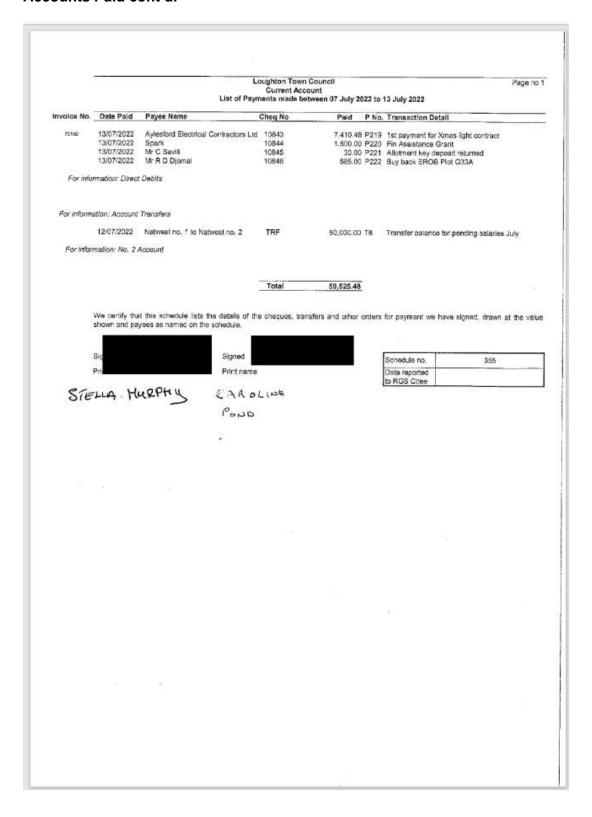
Date: 23/08/2022		Loughton Town Council		Page 1
Time: 14:41		ociliation Statement as at 31/0 ok 5 - Security Deposits Curre		User: JCG
Bank Statement Account N	ame (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Security Deposits Current a/c		31/07/2022	97	581.79
Unpresented Cheques (Min	ue)		Amount	581.79
Onpresented Cheques (Min	usj		0.00	
			-	0.00
Receipts not Banked/Cleare	ed (Plus)			581.79
	,		0.00	
			<del></del>	0.00 581.79
		Balance	per Cash Book is :-	581.79
			Difference is :-	0.00

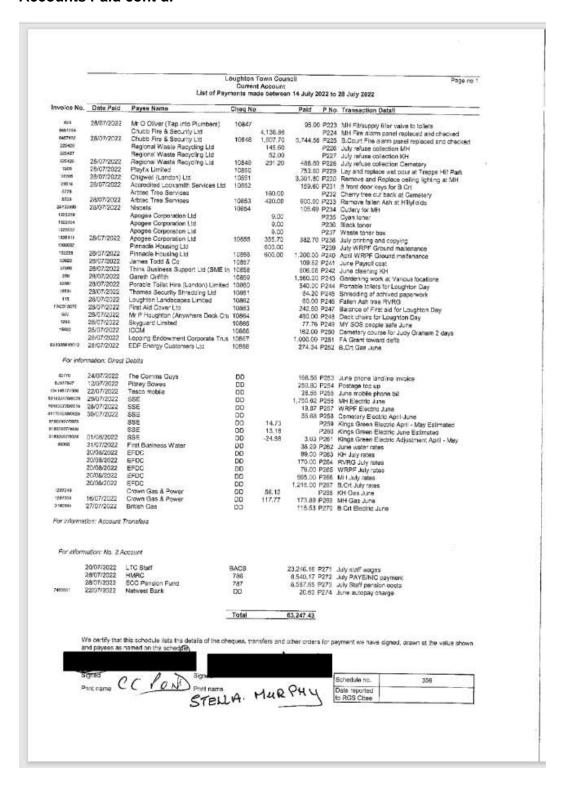
Date: 04/08/2022		Loughton Town Council		Page 1
Time: 09:07		ciliation Statement as at 31/ ok 6 - Nationwide Instant Sa		User: JCG
Bank Statement Account Name	me (s)	Statement Date	Page No	Balances
Nationwide Instant Saver Acc		31/07/2022	81	103,603.82
Unpresented Cheques (Minu	s)		Amount	103,603.82
			0.00	
			SUMMS.	0.00
				103,603.82
Receipts not Banked/Cleared	(Plus)		0.00	
			0.00	0.00
			_	103,603.82
		Balance	e per Cash Book is :-	103,603.82
			Difference is :-	0.00

## Agenda item 10.2 Accounts Paid

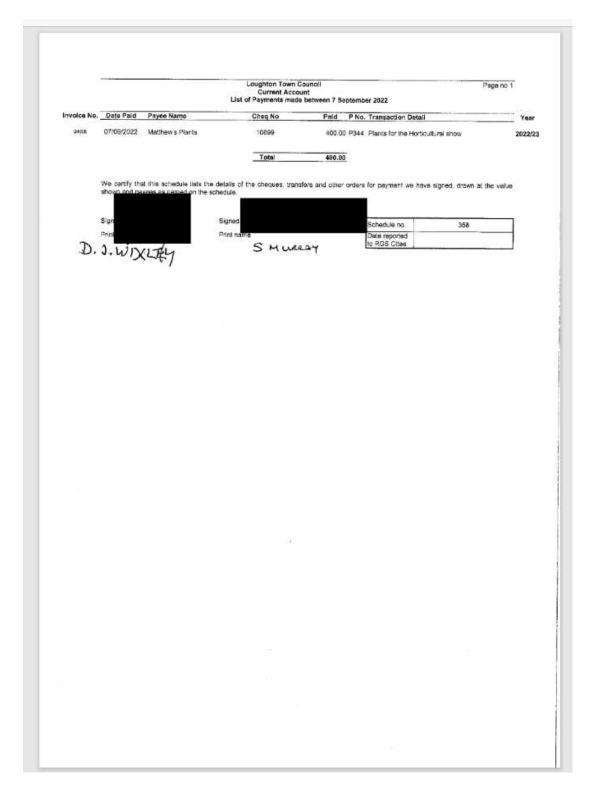












Agenda item 14

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) central external auditor appointment arrangements.

## Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements

Dear Clerk/RFO/Chairman, Loughton Town Council,

Under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, SAAA is responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. Smaller authorities are those whose gross annual income or expenditure is **less than £6.5 million**.

The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. Now that the submission deadline for the 2021-22 Annual Governance and Accountability Returns has passed, this is to advise you of the option to opt-out of the next round of 5-year audit appointments.

**All authorities require an appointed external auditor** even if the authority meets the criteria to qualify for exemption, as a Certificate of Exemption is required to be submitted to the external auditor and the auditor must be in place in case of objections from local electors

During the previous 5-year period **all** smaller authorities were 'opted-in' to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA - no authority decided to 'opt-out' and follow the various complex procedures required under statute to appoint their own external auditor. **If** you wish to continue as part of the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime then no action is required, you will remain part of central scheme.

However, all authorities must be given the option to opt-out of the central procurement and appointment scheme and appoint their own external auditor for the next 5-year period, although the process is onerous for smaller authorities.

This communication is to advise that whilst all smaller authorities are opted into the central procurement of external auditors by default, any authorities who do not wish to be part of the SAAA arrangements must formally notify SAAA that they wish to opt out within **8 weeks** of this communication but no later than **28 October 2022**; this decision must be communicated to SAAA via e mail to admin@saaa.co.uk.

If notification of your decision to opt out is not received within this 8-week period, then your authority will be regarded as opted-in for the next five-year period beginning on 1 April 2022 and ending on 31 March 2027.

#### **Opting out**

Opting out is a significant decision which requires careful consideration; to assist authorities considering opting out further guidance has been developed to clarify what opting out means in practice. This detailed information can be found at <a href="https://www.saaa.co.uk">www.saaa.co.uk</a>

An authority that wishes to opt out must formally reach and record that decision in a way that meets the requirements of its own governance framework, by convening a full council meeting or an extraordinary council meeting.

Agenda item 14

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) central external auditor appointment arrangements cont'd.

#### Key implications are:

- an opted-out authority regardless of size (including exempt authorities) **MUST** appoint an appropriate external auditor;
- the appointed auditor **must** be a registered auditor as defined by the Companies Act and a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants (England and Wales).
- an opted-out authority must convene an appropriate independent auditor panel which
  meets the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (LAAA). Detailed
  guidance on auditor panels is available in Schedule 4 of the LAAA Act and from CIPFA;
- an opted-out authority will need to develop its own specification for its external audit contract, will need to negotiate the price for this work on an individual basis and will need to manage the contract, including any disputes, and any independence issues that may arise;
- an opted-out authority must ensure full compliance with the relevant requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act and supporting Regulations;
- any opted-out authority that does not successfully appoint an appropriate external auditor
  in the correct manner and notify SAAA who their external auditor is by 30 November
  2022 will have an external auditor appointed for it by the Secretary of State through
  SAAA. This will result in additional costs of £300 which will have to be met by the
  authority.

## Agenda item 17.2 Financial Assistance Application – Grant A Smile CIC - additional information

We would like to hold a one-day African experience event for people aged 16 and over in Essex to fill the gap in the lack of diversity and inclusion projects in Essex. The One Community Project is a day dedicated to celebrating diversity and culture in the Essex region. According to the 2011 consensus, 90.8 percent of the population identified as white British, while 9.2 percent identified as ethnic minorities.

The event's theme, including the food, will be African. This is a community-building, educational, and social event that emphasises the value of inclusivity and social integration. We intend to launch this during Black History Month in October 2022 or after pending funding allocation and timescale. Through an appreciation of shared heritage, this project provides an opportunity to learn about cultural diversity. The event will include live African performances and choreographed dancing for audience participation, games and confidence building activities.

There has never been a better time for cultural exploration, education, and exchange between the mainstream and African communities. Such an event contributes to cultural identity development and emphasises shared learning experiences among people from diverse cultural backgrounds, resulting in increased community social cohesion.

The event will help demystify Africa and foster the growth of a more culturally sensitive community. Our event's most significant feature is that it will promote social integration and networking opportunities. It will be a fun event where people can meet new people and make connections that is good for their mental health and overall well-being.

Our goal is to provide an unforgettable experience that unites diverse audiences together. The event's activities are designed to teach, and as such, we anticipate that those who have never had the opportunity to experience African culture will leave with a sense of cultural understanding and sensitivity that they may not have had before the event. We anticipate a more cohesive, inclusive community and an increase in events centred on cultural knowledge among people of diverse backgrounds.

Culturally inclusive events promote and disseminate cultural topics to provide a chance for members of the community of diverse origins to broaden their cultural understanding. Cultural events have been found to increase group members' togetherness through cultivating skills of cooperation and dialogue. Additionally, it is critical for the emotional, cognitive, and social growth of an individual.

To summarise, we want to achieve the following:

- · To build a stronger, diverse and inclusive community.
- Opportunity for people to join in solidarity, rekindle hope and establish relationships that will enable them to build long lasting connections and ties.
- Build confidence, network, share ideas, educate people about diversity, and demonstrate the power of the community coming together.
- We are creating a safe space for Africans and the broader community to come together and celebrate.
- Connecting with others who share similar interests, hobbies, careers, or even problems can be extremely empowering, motivating, and always beneficial.
- Provide opportunities for citizens to volunteer, gain new skills and encourage community participation.
- . Empowering people in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

#### **Project Delivery**

We will enlist the help of residents, the council and local businesses in offering services. We currently have 22 volunteers working with us on this particular project and more volunteers will be sourced through social media, local community groups, word of mouth in the communities and local schools, and approach the local job centre to advertise the volunteer opportunities. We will promote diversity, inclusion and equality by recruiting people from different backgrounds.

We will give them their individual roles and have regular weekly meetings to ensure that we are on track. We want all the volunteers to feel a part of this project. Therefore, we will get them involved in also sharing ideas.

We have written a letter to Epping Forest Council and had a meeting with the event team at the Epping Forest Museum to inform them about our intent to host the event and inviting them to get involved in the project, which we hope will go down in history and become a cultural event that will be hosted annually. We have recently joined the volunteer champion group and have openly discussed our plans with the group. Everyone is excited and keen and cannot wait to be part of this project.

Both project leads have been involved in developing the plan and we started by brainstorming about the event and did some research on the types of cultural events that have taken place so far. Our findings show nothing like this has ever taken place in Loughton or the wilder Essex community, and we want to be the first to pilot this and hopefully, it will become a massive annual diversity and inclusion celebration in the community. We then came to an agreement on a strategy and budget. To create an unforgettable experience and the impact we desire as a community. We then resolved to seek funding to make this project a tremendous success.

We intentionally chose an African experience as it would be perfectly aligned with the theme of Black History Month. However, due to funding allocation wait time, we will have to push this back. (The objective remains the same regardless of the time of the year it is done.)

We have fostered relationships in the communities that will help us reach the wider communities. Grant A Smile was voted and won the "People's Choice Essex Award", "Grant Aid Outstanding Contributing to Epping Forest Community Award" and "The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Essex Award", and that is a testament to the impact we make and our popularity in the area. The mode of delivery to promote the event will be through social media, email, local media, our website, posters, libraries, local businesses and word of mouth.

We will be able to measure outcomes and analysis in different ways. We will have a record of the guests who attended and their feedback. A video will be taken, and guests will be able to comment about their experience on the night and what they lea event that emphasises the value of inclusivity and social integration. We intend to launch this during Black History Month In October 2022. Through an appreciation of shared heritage, this project provides an opportunity to learn about cultural diversity. The event will include live African performances and choreographed dancing for audience participation, games and confidence building activities.

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understanding and sensitivity that they may not have had before the event. We anticipate a more cohesive, inclusive community and an increase in events centred on cultural knowledge among people of diverse backgrounds.

The event will also have an economic impact on the local businesses we employ as vendors. We will also be collecting their feedback and the impact of our contribution after the pandemic. The date that has been set for the event will give us enough time for continuous research, planning and development in order to meet all priorities and deadlines. Delivering the project on time and within budget will also be a measure success outcome for us.

We have the project timeline plan that will be provided and meeting notes with the planning and delivery team. Photos of the event will also be made available, which will also be put in the local press. We will also encourage people to tag us in their community groups and share their experiences. The funding source will also be greatly advertised through all marketing efforts and on the day of the main event.

#### Budge

We are requesting funding for the amount of £9854.00 to plan and deliver the One Community event. Below is a budget on how the requested amount will be distributed.

Description Gost	(2)
Project Manager	500
MC	350
Decorator	240
Photographer	250
DJ	460
Videographer	375
Venue Hire	1100
PR/Marketing	1200
Insurance	360
Food	2890
Volunteer T-shirts	220
Beverages	174
Volunteer Travel Expense	175
Vendor Travel Expense	60
Cultural Performances for 3 Hours	1600

Overall Total Project Cost 9954

#### SCHEME OF GRANTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

#### APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the form clearly in black ink and keep the writing within the boxes.

Continue on another sheet of paper if necessary.

#### YOUR ORGANISATION

Name of organisation (please give location, if different from correspondence address on back page)

#### Summary of aims and objectives:

Grant A Smile is the only social enterprise in the UK providing practical intervention support for parents/families battling chronic, mental and life-threatening illnesses, improving their quality of life by offering a clean home, a tidy garden, grocery shopping and reassurance calls.

We aim to fill in the gaps left by the already stretched social services and help support the recovery journey for people who are overwhelmed by the state of their homes.

We recognise that the mental space functions when the physical space is in order; the home is in order and hence you are more productive. Millions of pounds are spent on raising awareness of mental health issues, but nothing is done to tackle the root causes and offer practical home support so people can recover fully and live better.

Grant A Smile is doing important work with families at what can be a hugely distressing and traumatic time for them. Without the preventative intervention that Grant A Smile provides, we can only imagine that the impact of these traumatic experiences (adverse childhood experiences) would almost certainly have a long-lasting and far-reaching impact on their mental health and, consequently, their physical health as they continue to grow and develop.

16 -110 years
Yes - Community Interest Company
10981555
33
21
No
No

#### DETAILS OF GRANT APPLIED FOR

Purpose for which the grant is required including how your organisation will benefit together with details of the proposed expenditure (include copies of quotations/estimates where appropriate).

Explain how Loughton residents will benefit from this project?

Our goal is to provide an unforgettable experience that unites diverse audiences together. The event's activities are designed to teach, and as such, we anticipate that those who have never had the opportunity to experience African culture would leave with a sense of cultural understanding and sensitivity that they may not have had before to the event. We anticipate a more cohesive, inclusive community and an increase in events centred on cultural knowledge among people of diverse backgrounds.

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- Empowering residents in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic

Are you making this application as part of the annual round of grant applications? (closing date 31 December)?

No

If No, please explain the circumstances to justify this emergency application (please see point 2 of the scheme before completing this section).

We are facing an unanticipated financial issue and reached out to Murray Hall to provide us with free access to their hall. However, they were unable to help and informed us about this grant.

Total cost of project	5000	1=11/02
Amount of grant requested	2500	77-37
Funds available from organisation's own resources	2500	
Funds granted from other bodies (please give details)	0	
If there is a shortfall in these figures, how do you propose to fund the deficiency?		511115

#### PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS

Name of person making grant application	Joyce Obaseki BEM		
Address for correspondence	71 Whitehills Road Loughton Essex		
Email address	Joyce.obaseki@gran	ntasmile.org.uk	
Tel. No.	Day- 07735515168 Evening- 07735515168		
DECLARATION			
I certify that the information provided is com I enclose the following documents in suppo a) a copy of our constitution b) most recent I undertake on behalf of the organisation used for the purpose for which it was gran not required for that purpose.	rt of this application: t set of audited accour that any financial ass	sistance offered will only be	
Signed:	Date: 1/06/22		
Name (please print): Joyce Obaseki			
Capacity in which signed: Director			
If your application is successful please indicate the name to which the cheque show be made payable.  N.B. Cheques can only be made payable to the name of the organisation's bank account not an individual.			
DATA PR Loughton Town Council only undertakes the p contract for services with you. Our Data Privat binding obligations on us covering the duration, copies are available on request from th https://tinyurl.com/y8sxohgs	y Notice forms part of thi nature and purpose of the	is agreement and includes the ne processing and your rights;	
When you apply for Financial Assistance, the as name, address, email address, phone number contact you and respond to your correspondent your personal information will not be shared with the application form with supporting information to the property of the content of the co	er) will be processed and be and provide information any third party without y ation should be returne Town Hall, Traps Hill,	stored so that it is possible to on relating to your application. your prior consent. Id to: Loughton IG10 1HD	
For office use only:			
	Decision		
Acknowledged - I	zecialori		
50-98111111111111111111111111111111111111	nformed		



COMPANY FOR THE Y	INFORMATION TEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020		
	DIRECTORS:	J Aghahowa E R Jackson E I Obaseki Q K Enakele	
	REGISTERED OFFICE:	71 Whitehills Road Loughton Essex IG10 1TU	
	REGISTERED NUMBER:	10981555 (England and Wales)	
£			

GRANT A SMILE COMMUNITY IN	TEREST COMPANY
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS	index Comani
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEM	HBER 2020
The directors present their report with the	financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 September 2020,
DIRECTORS	
the directors shown below have held o report.	office during the whole of the period from 1 October 2019 to the date of this
J Aghahowa	
I R Jackson E I Obaseki	
Other changes in directors holding office a	are as follows:
Q K Enakele - appointed 10 June 2020	
This report has been prepared in accordar companies.	nce with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:	
J Aghahowa - Director	w.
Date:	

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020		
Notes	2020 £	2019 £
TURNOVER	18,876	7,288
Cost of sales		(11,493)
GROSS SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	18,876	(4,205)
Administrative expenses	(4.611)	(7,957)
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) and SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION	14,265	(12,162)
	14,203	(12,102)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)		
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	14,265	(12,162)

BALANCE SHEET			
30 SEPTEMBER 2020			
	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	3	2,508	2.413
CURRENT ASSETS Cash at bank		54.362	2.312
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within	one year 6	(20,410)	(20.530)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT	33.952	(18,218)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS C LIABILITIES	URRENT	36.460	(15.805)
CREDITORS Amounts falling due after m	ore than one		
year	7	(38,000)	-
NET LIABILITIES		(1,540)	115,3051
RESERVES Income and expenditure acc	ount	(1.540)	(15.805)
		(1,540)	(15,805)
	equired the company to obtain a lance with Section 476 of the Comp heir responsibilities for:		ts for the year ended
<ul> <li>(a) ensuring that the com</li> <li>Act 2006 and</li> </ul>	pany keeps accounting records what tements which give a true and fair		
each financial year a Sections 394 and 395	and of its surplus or deficit for eac and which otherwise comply with the far as applicable to the company.	h financial year in accordance w	ith the requirements of
The financial statements ha small companies regime.	ve been prepared in accordance w	ith the provisions applicable to co	empanies subject to the
	were approved by the Boar and were signed on its behalf by:	ed of Directors and authorise	ed for issue on
J Aghahowa - Director			
	The notes form part of these	financial statements	

#### Agenda item 17.2

#### Financial Assistance Application - Grant A Smile CIC application cont'd.

#### GRANT A SMILE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

#### 1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Grant a Smile Community Interest Company is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### TURNOVER

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

#### TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery etc

- 25% on cost

#### TAXATION

Taxation for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

#### DEFERRED TAX

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

#### 3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was NIL (2019 - NIL).

#### 4. OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

The operating surplus (2019 - operating deficit) is stated after charging:

2020 2019 £ £ 1,104

Depreciation - owned assets

Page 5

CP	ANT A SMILLE COMMUNITY INTERSECT COMMUNIC		
	ANT A SMILE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY		
FOR	TES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued R THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020		
5.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
5.446			Plant and
			machinery etc
	COST		E
	At I October 2019		3,217
	Additions		1.199
	At 30 September 2020		4,416
	DEPRECIATION		
	At 1 October 2019 Charge for year		804 1,104
	At 30 September 2020		1.908
	Section Company Matrix, Matrix Company Company		
	NET BOOK VALUE Ar 30 September 2020		2,508
	At 30 September 2019		2,4(3
6.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
		2020 €	2019 £
	Other creditors	20,410	20,530
8		100	
7,	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR		
		2020 E	2019 £
	Bank loans	38,000	

Turnover	1997			
Turnover	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Donations	3,136		5,093	
Sponsorship & grants	15,540		1,000	
Services provided	200		1,045	
Fundraising	200		150	
rundraising		18,876	- 130	7,288
Cost of sales				
Children's social events	47		4,880	
Children's special wishes			2,104	
Parental assistance	- 3		4,509	
TO THE MINISTER STATE OF THE PARTY OF T	-	92	-	11,493
		- 22		
GROSS SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		18,876		(4,205)
Expenditure				
Rent	23		730	
Insurance	14		536	
Wages			1,310	
Telephone			820	
Post and stationery	117		206	
Publications, press & PR	332		1.085	
Travelling	86		153	
Motor expenses	186		132	
Computer & Software	814		501	
Household and cleaning	989		889	
Sundry expenses	367		208	
Accountancy	300		420	
Staff clothing	302		783	
75		3,507	2	7,773
		6777000		(C-1000)
		15,369		(11,978)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		24		184
		****		-
		15,369		(12,162)
Downstalation				
Depreciation Computer equipment		1.104		
		a Company		
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		14,265		(12,162)
				_
This page does not fr	orm part of the statutory fir	nancial statements		
Lina yage cotta not n	Page 7	motor survineits	50	