

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member
for Finance Decision-Making Meeting
09/May2022



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held remotely of Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance Decision-Making Meeting held on Monday, 9 May 2022.

Councillors present:

Mike Every

Officers present:

Julie Beaumont – Revenues & Benefits Officer, Mandy Fathers – Business Manager for Operational Services and Caleb Harris- Democratic Services

Observers: Councillor Patrick Coleman

1. Discretionary Council Tax Discount

The report requested that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance approve the recommendations to approve the Application for Discretionary Council Tax discount submitted under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended and that the outstanding £850.84 for the 2021/22 Financial Year be awarded.

As Chris Kent was not able to attend the meeting, Mandy Fathers was present as a substitute officer for the item.

Mandy Fathers introduced the item to the Cabinet Member as a discretionary council tax discount needed

It was noted that the resident was in a Band G property and the liability was £3273.50

It was further noted that the resident was in significant financial difficulties due to caring responsibilities and is not able to work at this time.

The officer outlined that Council Tax support does not include Band G within the current policy.

The current amount outstanding of £850.84 which is part of the recommendation of the officer.

Councillor Coleman commented the difficulty of the circumstances and felt that this was a highly unusual circumstances.

Decision

The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations of the Officer and resolved to accept the recommendation

Reason for Decision of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

The Cabinet Member approved the recommendation based upon the circumstances identified are highly unusual in regard of the situations. The resident is eligible for Council Tax support but his circumstances required an additional intervention due to the unique circumstances.

ACTION BY:

Chris Kent
Tel: 01594 812290

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Closing Date for Call-In:	17 May 2022 (5.00pm)
Action Embargoed until:	18 May 2022

2. Application for Discretionary Rate Relief

The report requested that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance approve the recommendations to approve the applications for Discretionary Rate Relief listed from a) to p) and refuse the applications listed from q) to t).

It was noted that no formal comments have been provided on the report to the officer or to Democratic Services.

The Cabinet Member wished to examine both reports at one time before a final decision is made on both.

The officer noted that there one new application from Headspace. With the exception of South Cerney Sailing Club, the Discretionary Rates Relief top up is being sought in addition to the 80% Mandatory Relief. Regulations stipulate that Discretionary Rates Relief must be granted before Expanded Retail Discount.

Where there was an entitlement to the Expanded Retail Discount the value of this discount will automatically be adjusted or removed if a Discretionary Rates relief application is granted. It was noted that the South Cerney Sailing Club is not entitled to the 80% mandatory relief because it is not a registered charity. Discretionary Rates Relief was therefore been recommended at a higher rate than 20%.

3. Application for Discretionary Rate Relief

The report requested that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance approve the recommendations to **approve** the applications for Discretionary Rate Relief listed from a) to r) and **refuse** the applications listed from s) to x)

Following consideration of the first document, the officer then moved on to the second report.

The officer noted the report included 22 renewal application and 4 new applications. 3 of the 'new' items were adjourned from a previous meeting. This was due to more information being required.

The Cabinet Member queried a balance for the customer to pay on the spreadsheet in respect of an application from Progressive Farming Trust Ltd. This balance was noted as an error to be corrected by the officer..

Councillor Coleman asked if there was strong statutory guidance on making decisions based on the organisation's reserves. The officer explained that the Discretionary Rates Relief policy has been updated to account for this.

It was noted that the discretionary reports has been through Cabinet at the end of 2021.

The Cabinet Member noted that the decisions are made based on the best use of taxpayer's money based on the reserves held. This was confirmed as for organisations with reserves over £30,000.

The Cabinet Member wished to confirm that the National Star College was not approved due to the financial reserves of £1,968,000. This was confirmed by the officer.

Decision

The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations of the Officer and resolved to accept the recommendations for both Discretionary Rates Relief reports (items 2 and 3) with the exception of the application received from Churn Neighbourhood Project Ltd (listed in the first report under recommendation t). The Cabinet Member resolved to recommend to the officer that relief would be granted and not refused.

Reason for Decision of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

The Cabinet Member approved the recommendations due to the reasons outlined around organic farmer research. The Cabinet Member was also happy not to grant the relief for those outlined in the report as they were deemed not appropriate for relief. It was noted that the exception given was due to the nature of the organisation and the work being done in the local community. Furthermore, it was noted that whilst there were significant balances, it was appropriate to grant this relief.

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ACTIONS BY:

Julie Beaumont
Tel: 01594 812290

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Chair

(END)