



20 May 2022

Tel:
e-mail -

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING MEETING

A meeting of the Leader of the Council Decision-Making Meeting will be held virtually on
Monday, 30 May 2022 at 1.30 pm.

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Leader of the Council Decision-Making Meeting
(Councillors Joe Harris)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Application for Discretionary Rate Relief (Pages 3 - 8)**
This report seeks the approval of the Leader of the Council of the recommendation to approve the application for discretionary rate relief.

Reporting Officer: Julie Beaumont (01993 861222)

DATE OF DECISION: NO EARLIER THAN MONDAY 30 MAY 2022

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: NOON ON FRIDAY 27 MAY 2022

Note: Any Member who wishes to comment on an item is requested to send those comments (preferably by e-mail) to the Reporting Officer, copied to Democratic Services, by the deadline identified.

Any comments received will be reported to the Decision-Maker prior to the decision(s) being taken.

(END)

Agenda Item 1



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	DECISION MAKING MEETING – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 1
Subject	APPLICATION FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF
Wards affected	Siddington & Cerney Rural
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of Cotswold District Council Tel: 01285 623000 Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jon Dearing. Group Manager for Resident Services Tel: 01993 861221 Email: jon.dearing@publicagroup.uk Julie Beaumont. Revenues & Benefits Officer Tel: 01993 861222 Email: Julie.beaumont@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To determine one renewal application for Discretionary Rate Relief submitted under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 for the financial year 2021/2022.
Annexes	Annex A- Additional information from Cotswold Sailing Club
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended that the Leader of The Council approves the following Discretionary Rates Relief application because the entity is carrying out activities which support the Council's priorities and have provided evidence of financial circumstances which justify an award. Cotswold Sailing Club (Account 7100156283) Recommended 25% of Business Rates costs in recognition of the contribution to charitable purposes and maintenance of community land.
Corporate priorities	(Select which ones apply from the list below:) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering our services to the highest standards • Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing • Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high value jobs
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO



Consultees/ Consultation	Leader of the Council, Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Interim Head of Legal, Finance Business Partner and Group Manager for Resident Services.
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I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Cotswold District Council has the power (exercised through powers awarded to The Leader of the Council) to consider granting, on an individual basis, Discretionary Rate Relief to non-profit making organisations and organisations suffering financial hardship.
- 1.2** In the decision making meeting of 30 November 2021 the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance agreed that successful applications would be granted Discretionary Rates Relief for one year. To be consistent with the previous decisions, it is recommended that consideration be given for one year to this current application.
- 1.3** The Council has adopted a new policy to apply from the 2022/23 financial year, but as this application relates to 2021/2022 financial year, it is being considered in line with decisions made under the old policy. The old policy had a greater emphasis on the entities contribution towards providing a service to the community rather than the financial viability of the entity. This application has therefore been considered on the basis of previous considerations.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1** The Council has received this renewal application for Discretionary Rate Relief in relation to Business Rate liability for the 2021/2022.

An overview of the application is as follows;

Cotswold Sailing Club is seeking Discretionary Relief in respect of their premises, land, two public footpaths and the costs of controlling weed growth which the club helps to manage. The Sailing Club lease the premises from Cotswold Sailing Club Ltd. All directors of Cotswold Sailing Club Ltd are members of Cotswold Sailing Club.

Cotswold Sailing Club received Discretionary Rate Relief of £1,686.58 for the period from 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 at the rate of 25 per cent after a deduction for Small Business Rates Relief.

The Club received a Covid Business Support Grant of £10,000 in 2020. The Cotswold Sailing Club Ltd made a surplus of £3,910. Cash in Bank and in hand £95,232.



3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Cotswold District Council is part of the Gloucestershire 50%

Business Rates pool and the costs of awarding discretionary rate relief is shared as follows:

- Central Government 50%
- County Council 10%
- District Council 40%

Therefore the cost to the Council of applying discretionary rate relief is as follows:

	Current		Recommendation			
	Total Rates £	Rates After Relief	% Relief	Value to Applicant £	Cost to CDC £	Applicant To pay £
Cotswold Sailing Club	(2021/22) 7,360.25	1,721.89	25%	430.47	172.19	1,291.42

- 3.1** The financial impact on the Council on the provision of unfunded discretionary relief of this type is minimal. In 2020/21 the total loss of income to the Collection Fund for unfunded discretionary reliefs was £41,231 of which the Council's proportion was £16,492. The recommendations contained in this report represent a cost to the Council in 2021/22 of £172.19. As of 28th March 2022 the collection in respect of National Non Domestic Rates is £22,446,498 this represents 92.96% collected for 2021/22.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act (1988) permits the billing authority to grant discretionary rate relief to charities and other organisations of prescribed types.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1** The approval, or otherwise, of the individual application does not set a precedent or carry any significant risk to the Council or its residents as each application is considered on an individual basis



6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1** There are no equalities impacts for these Discretionary Rates Relief applications.

7. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** There are no direct climate change implications for the Council.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1** Cabinet could decide to award a different level of Rate Relief to that recommended.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1** There are no background papers.

Annex A – Additional Information Provided by Cotswold Sailing Club

Dear Ms Beaumont

Thank you for your email, I have responded to your questions below.

Locals residents who are not members can access the lake from the multiple footpaths that ring the lake. I have attached a map and highlighted the public footpaths. Members can also bring guests to the lake without additional fees.

We also offer local community groups access to the lake, opportunities for sailing and camping. As an example a local police unit held a post-covid 'away day' overnight camping/sailing team event last summer. A local scout group and a dog rescue charity also use our facilities.

Engaging with the local community is high on the committee's agenda. We are in discussions with the Parish Council and the local resident's group to provide further access to the lake.

We are also planning to invite local residents to our jubilee celebrations.

In answer to your specific question, we do not charge the scout group a fee. They do pay a contribution towards the costs of storage, hot water/showers, the use of the kitchen and fuel for the motor boats. In previous years this has been in the region of £200.

The club has a total of 276 memberships, comprising both family and single memberships. The total number of individuals is 774; 499 adults and 275 juniors.

The Club prides itself for its volunteer run, family friendly approach to supporting the sport of sailing and welcomes members of all abilities and backgrounds. We are focused on family membership which helps the club's sustainability and encourages juniors into the sport

The membership fee is very good value and is set at a level to ensure inclusivity. For these reasons the club is extremely popular and we have generations of family members, some of whom have been members for decades. As a result we have a very low attrition rate and recruit just 3 – 5 new memberships each year.

The criteria for membership is based on previous sailing experience or by demonstrating a keen interest in learning to sail.

We do not have a specific hardship policy, however the committee considers favourably, requests for assistance that can be demonstrated during this year's renewal process.

I trust this answers your queries. If you have any further questions, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Treasurer

