

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member
for Finance Decision Meeting
14/March2023



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Decision Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 March 2023.**

Councillors present:

Mike Every

Officers present:

Julie Beaumont, Revenues & Benefits Officer
Caleb Harris, Senior Democratic Services
Officer

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and
Chief Finance Officer

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests from the Cabinet Member or officers present.

2 Application for Discretionary Rate Relief Report First Report

The report author Julie Beaumont introduced the report and outlined the key highlights of the report

It was noted that the report had some new additions to the relief

The Cabinet Member noted that the report was important to ensure that the Council finances were protected and the correct relief was applied.

The officer also noted that in addition to the 80% Mandatory Charitable Relief, the majority of applicants were currently in receipt of 50% Expanded Retail Discount for the hospitality and leisure service they provide. This Expanded Retail Discount is due to rise to 75% from 01 April 2023 and the relief would remain in place if the Discretionary Rates Relief applications were refused.

The Deputy Chief Executive also noted the rate relief for retail and hospitality that was agreed at Cabinet on 13th March and this was taken into account. It was noted by the Cabinet Member that the Deputy Chief Executive was comfortable with the financial implications.

The Cabinet Member noted that any decision does not detract from the good work of these organisations.

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The Cabinet Member noted that the Tarbarrow Cricket Club held reserves of £1500 and asked for clarification that the cash reserves were less than the expenditure.

The officer also confirmed that the unrestricted fund for Churn Neighbourhood Project were £70,127.

The Cabinet Members attention was drawn to the late applications for 2021/2022 financial year detailed in red on the appendix for Trustees of Weston Subedge Village Hall, King Georges Hall Committee, Trustees of Oddington Village Hall, Elkstone Village Hall and SIm Community Leisure Charitable Trust.

The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations of the officer and resolved to APPROVE the applications listed a) and d) within the report and REFUSE applications listed e) to z) in the report. The Cabinet Member also agreed to the late applications for 2021/22 as highlighted in red in the appendix.

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

The Cabinet Member accepted the recommendations as these proposals would help to support organisations within the Cotswolds whilst also balancing this with the financial position of the Council.

3 Discretionary Rate Relief Report Second Report

The Deputy Leader opened the item and invited the officer to provide any additional comment.

The officer drew the Cabinet Members attention to the late application for 2021/22 financial year detailed in red on the appendix for Trustees of Shipton Reading Room. This late application was approved by the Cabinet Member.

It was noted by the officer that Lechlade Library Ltd is operated by volunteers to provide a community library and visitors Information Centre with support from Gloucestershire County Council and this was taken into consideration when arriving at the recommendation.

It was noted that the New Brewery Arts Ltd Gallery, Studio and shop premises also has a café on its premises which has been leased to an independent operator. The area leased to the café operator is just over 10% of the total floor space and the calculation of the Discretionary Rates Relief to be awarded has therefore been adjusted to reflect the floor area which is not directly used by the New Brewery Arts Ltd.

The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations of the officer and resolved to APPROVE the applications listed a) to g) within the report and REFUSE applications listed h) to cc) as set out in the report in the report.

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

The Cabinet Member accepted the recommendations of the officer for the same reason as the previous report as it is balancing between supporting organisations that do important work and the financial position of the Council.

ACTION BY:

**Julie Beaumont
01993 861222**

Date of Publication:	15 March 2023
Closing Date for Call-In:	23 March 2023 (5.00pm)
Action Embargoed until:	24 March 2023

Chair

(END)