

## GRANTS POLICY (2017)

### General

Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act as amended, a grant may be given that is...

***"In the interests of the area or its inhabitants, and (will) benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure"***

### Awarding Grants

The Parish Council is keen to assist in the provision of facilities that improve the quality of life for its community. However, grants will only be awarded if sufficient surplus funds exist and it may be necessary to refuse an application of merit on the grounds of budgetary risk.

Organisations should not apply for grant aid simply to improve their finances: in such cases grants WILL NOT be made.

In some cases Council may impose conditions before awarding funds, or may consider making a loan as well as, or instead of, a grant.

The following criteria will help organisations/individuals in deciding if they are eligible for grant assistance:

- Applications will only be considered from voluntary and or charitable organisations and individuals providing voluntary services.
- The activities of the organisation/individual must provide benefits to the public that are either free or provided on reasonable terms.
- Normally, only one grant application will be considered per year from any organisation/individual.
- Successful recipients of any grant, where sensitivity does not prohibit, will be expected to co-operate reasonably in publicising the grant in the press and on social media.

### Grant Types

Grant applications will fall into one of the following categories and will be considered on this basis:

#### Minor Grants

Minor grants will be considered by the Council, for up to a maximum of £250.

## **Major Grants**

Major grants will be considered by the Council, and will be up to a maximum of £500. Applicants may be required to attend a Parish Council meeting to present their case.

Major grant applications should:

- be an application for assistance with specific projects, particularly when a grant from the Parish Council will attract aid from (in cash or kind) other sources.
- where appropriate, be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's latest statement of accounts, ideally audited, including full details of any other financial assistance such as investments.
- show some security of tenure for applications involving land and/or buildings
- be accompanied by a budget for the scheme; if applicable, this should show any applications made to other bodies for grant aid.
- made as early as possible to enable investigation and/or forward planning by Council.
- where applicable, be accompanied by any necessary planning permission approval; no grant will be awarded until required planning has been gained.

## **Emergency Grants**

Emergency Grants will be considered on their merit.

## **Grant Application Process**

The awarding of grants will only be considered by the Council upon receipt of a completed Grant Application Form. Forms should be submitted to the Parish Clerk, for consideration at the next Full Parish Council Meeting.

## **Grant Application Acceptance**

Before accepting an application for consideration, Council will establish that:

- If the grant is from an organisation, it is bona-fide (or newly formed), properly constituted and administered.
- The grant will be used for a stated purpose.
- There is an established need.
- Where appropriate, the organisation concerned is also making its own efforts to raise funds.

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually, to be renewed at the Annual General Meeting of the Council.