



POLICY ON GRANTS

The parish council will consider applications for grants from charities, voluntary groups or community organizations.

1 Eligibility

Applicant organizations must be based in the parish and be run for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the parish council will benefit the parish or residents of the parish. Any exclusion on the grounds of gender, race, age, religious or political affiliation or sexual orientation will invalidate the application.

The parish council will not fund activities that it considers to be the responsibility of a statutory authority.

Applications will not be considered from schools for an activity that takes place within the school day.

The parish council will not fund activities outside its powers and functions.

Grants are commonly lumped together and just called Section 137 grants, but most grants are not S137 grants. For example, giving a grant to the church towards the maintenance of a closed churchyard comes under the S215 of the Local Government Act 1972 and any grant given that encourages tourism comes under S144 of the Local Government Act 1972.

S137 is only used when the parish council does not have the power elsewhere to give the grant. S137 grants are also limited each year by a sum of money per parishioner. For example, if the limit were £9.93 and there were 1500 electors in a parish, the parish council could spend a maximum of £14,895 as S137 grant funding in that year, if the parish council had budgeted for that. S137 does not need to be used unless there is no other power available.

In 2023-24, the parish council budgeted £3,000 for grants. The amount allowed under S137 is separate from the £3,000 budgeted for grants.

Further guidance is contained in a NALC Legal Topic Note.¹

2 Applications

Applications will be considered for the following purposes:

- To purchase equipment either in part or in full
- To fund transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes
- To train members or to purchase the expertise of an outside trainer, instructor or facilitator
- To fund activities that raise the profile of the area
- To cover the running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship
- To host special events or celebrations
- To provide recreational facilities.

Applicants must provide details of their constitution, with names of the proper officers, i.e. chairperson, secretary and treasurer. This will normally be a written document containing the organization's aims and objectives. Those organizations registered as charities should give their registered charity number. Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the last income and expenditure details presented at the most recent annual meeting.

Applicants should state the purpose to which any grant will be put. Applications must demonstrate that quotations received for any works, equipment or any service is the best available, with details of the specification.

Applicants that have no formal organization must name a person or persons on the application as responsible for any monies received from the parish council and accountable for the expenditure of such monies.

3 Conditions

Grants will not be awarded to individuals.

Additional applications within a 12-month period will not normally be considered.

¹ NALC Legal Topic Note 31E, "Local Council General Powers (England)" (2023)

The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made. If the applicant is unable to use the award for the stated purpose, all monies must be returned to the parish council

All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied as requested. If the parish council is not satisfied with the arrangements, they reserve the right to request a refund of monies awarded.

The parish council reserves the right to withhold any agreed grant until such time as satisfactory invoices or evidence of the project can be presented to the council.

Any grant awarded by the parish council may be subject to additional conditions as determined by the council.

4 Procedure

Applications may be submitted at any time. However, potential applicants are reminded that the financial year for the parish council, in common with other local government bodies, runs from April to the following March. The parish council's budget will normally contain an item for grants.

Shortly before the start of each financial year, the parish council will remind parishioners that grants may be requested. Once the funds set aside for grants is spent, further funding may not be available until the start of the new financial year.