

Grendon Parish Council

Grants Policy

Background

Grendon Parish Council has to have a legal power or duty before it can incur any expenditure; if there is no specific power to allow the Council to give funds to a local organisation, then the Council relies on a general power contained in Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council may only use this power if, and only if, it is satisfied that the expenditure is in the interests of the area as a whole. The maximum amount that the Council can spend on Section 137 is fixed by the Government.

1. Definition of a grant

A grant is defined as an award to an organisation or group to undertake voluntary or community activities for the benefit of the Parish. The organisation/group themselves determine their activities and procedures and the Council makes a financial contribution as a grant award.

The Council cannot give a grant to an individual.

2. Scope of funding

Funding support **may** be available for voluntary and community sector organisations and local bodies which:

- are based in the Parish of Grendon, delivering activities or services to our parishioners (Regional/National charities are unlikely to be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the project is specific to the parish of Grendon, with an obvious benefit to the area);

or

- are newly formed groups intending to provide facilities not yet available to residents of Grendon parish;

and

- have not previously applied for a grant from Grendon Parish Council in the current financial year (1 April to 31 March).

3. Availability of funds

The availability of funds to support voluntary activity is dependent on the Council's overall financial position and the choices it makes when allocating its resources. The Council will only consider supplying direct support in the form of grants to eligible bodies as set out in Section 4 (Eligible groups). Retrospective applications will not be considered.

4. Eligible groups

These will usually be:

- a non profit making body or one where accrued income is recycled for the benefit of the Parish;
- working for the benefit of the Parish of Grendon;
- independent, determining their own aims and objectives;
- formally constituted, with a committee made up of volunteers comprising the governing body;
- groups with a formal constitution and/or which have charitable status.

Eligible groups may also include voluntary organisations which employ paid staff for their expertise where the group does not have the necessary skills. Individuals are not eligible for grant support from the Council.

The Council will only award a grant to eligible groups which:-

- have clear plans for the grant and the organisation;
- achieve quality and provide an effective service;
- have common and transparent arrangements for agreeing objectives;

- undertake monitoring performance and evaluation

In order to maintain a consistent approach, all requests for grant funding will be reviewed by the Council in the following areas to achieve value for money:-

- Level of service and quality
- Financial management and the real need for Council assistance
- Cover gaps in existing provisions
- Meeting changing needs
- Attracting new funding
- Reducing duplication

5. Decisions

Decision making will be on the basis of the information provided in the completed application form, and fulfilling the requirements of this document. A decision will usually be made by Full Council at their next meeting, agenda time permitting, or at the one immediately after, unless further information is required.

6. Performance management

The Council recognises that Performance Management is an important means of showing that public money is spent the right way and achieves best value.

In the allocation of funds, there will be a need to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation which focuses on outcomes. To achieve this it is proposed that:

- Monitoring should be proportionate to the amount of funding awarded
- Monitoring should also be used to demonstrate achievement
- There is a need to keep information collecting as simple as possible for groups

7. Risk management

There are associated risks involved with providing funding support. Voluntary and Community groups will be encouraged to carry out risk assessments to identify possible areas of concern, for example audit processes and systems to minimise fraud and purchasing public liability insurance. There may be other areas to consider allied to proposed activities.

8. Acceptance of a grant award

Accepting an award means the recipient:

- will provide a report for Parish Council for presentation to the Council or the following Annual Parish Meeting (at the discretion of the Parish Council) outlining how the grant has been utilised, how it has assisted the organisation and what it has achieved;
- agrees to the Parish Council publishing the above report and/or its own article about the grant as the Council sees fit;
- will be accountable for funds and will provide a receipt;
- will sign a disclaimer releasing the Council from any responsibility for the event or activity;
- acknowledges that the grant does not imply or constitute any employer/employee relationship;
- will acknowledge the financial support from the Council in publicity;

9. Application forms

Application forms may be obtained from:

Deborah Rush, Clerk to Grendon Parish Council, 26 Main Road, Grendon
clerk@grendon-pc.org.uk

Signed copy held on file

Appendix

GRENDON PARISH COUNCIL APPLICATION FORM – GRANT

Title of Organisation			
Brief description of project			
Total expected cost	£ .		
How much do you expect to raise by your own efforts?	£ .		
How much do you expect to raise from other sources? Please specify any other contributors and whether the contribution is guaranteed or you just hope for it.	Name of Contributor	Amount	Confirmed
		£ .	Y / N
		£ .	Y / N
		£ .	Y / N
		£ .	Y / N
		£ .	Y / N
	TOTAL	£ .	
Amount of grant applied for	£ .		
How will any shortfall be financed?			
For what would a grant be used?			
Who will benefit from the proposed project/scheme?			
What does your organisation do? List aims and objectives.			
Name, address & phone number of the Chair person, Secretary or organiser			

(state position or title)																			
Has the applicant previously applied to this council for aid? If yes, list full details include date	Y / N																		
Has any other authority been approached to fund this project? If yes, list full details include date, authority and amount	Y / N																		
What other organisations may use your facilities or service, or benefit from them?																			
How long has the organisation, club, or body been in existence?																			
Does the organisation operate only in Grendon Parish or further afield? Please explain.																			
Are you a registered charity? (delete as applicable) If yes, please provide number	Y / N																		
Do you have a membership fee? If yes please give details	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Annual fee</td> <td>X</td> <td>Members</td> <td>=</td> <td>Income</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>£</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>=</td> <td>£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior</td> <td>£</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td>=</td> <td>£</td> </tr> </table>		Annual fee	X	Members	=	Income	Adult	£	X		=	£	Junior	£	X		=	£
	Annual fee	X	Members	=	Income														
Adult	£	X		=	£														
Junior	£	X		=	£														
Please provide any additional information relevant to your application.																			
Date of this application	Date of event / function																		

I confirm that I have authority to apply for this grant and that I am authorised to accept the terms and conditions, including

- providing a report for the Parish Council for presentation to the Council or the following Annual Parish Meeting (at the discretion of the Parish Council) outlining how the grant has been utilised, how it has assisted the organisation and what it has achieved;
- agreeing to the Parish Council publishing the above report and/or its own article about the grant as the Council sees fit;
- being accountable for funds and providing a receipt;
- signing a disclaimer releasing the Council from any responsibility for the event or activity;
- acknowledging that the grant does not imply or constitute any employer/employee relationship;

- acknowledging the financial support from the Council in all publicity in a form agreed with the Clerk;

Signature:

Print Name:

Position:

Date:.....

Please enclose a copy of your latest income/expenditure report indicating your current financial standing and send this, with the completed application form, to the Parish Clerk.

Please complete the form as far as possible; some questions may not be applicable to your organisation. If the Parish Council require any further information they will contact you.