

BARDON MILL PARISH COUNCIL

Grant awarding policy and procedure

Introduction to Policy

A grant is any payment or gift made by the Parish Council to an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council. The law requires that Section 137 grants must be "in the interests of or will directly benefit the area or its inhabitants, or of part of it, or some of it" and "the direct benefit should be commensurate with expenditure". Similar considerations will apply when considering applications for other grants.

Policy

The Parish Council awards grants, at its absolute discretion, to organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to achieve an objective which will benefit the Parish by:

- ✓ Providing a service,
- ✓ Enhancing the quality of life,
- ✓ Improving the environment,
- ✓ Promoting the Parish of Bardon Mill in a positive way.

The Parish Council will NOT award grants to:

- × Private individuals,
- × Commercial organisations,
- × Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide,
- × "Upward funders": ie. local groups where fund-raising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution.
- × Political parties,
- × Religious organisations: unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief.

This list is not exclusive and may be added to at the council's discretion.

Application Procedure

Organisations requesting financial assistance are required to apply in writing (paper or email) to the Clerk at least two weeks before the meeting in February if they wish their application to be considered. Council cannot guarantee to consider the grant at a particular meeting.

The letter of application should include specific details of what the grant is to be used for. If equipment is to be purchased there should be an indication of why a specific supplier has been chosen and if work is to be undertaken quotes should be

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obtained from more than one contractor, although it is not necessary that the cheapest is chosen. Organisations will normally be expected to have clear written aims and objectives, a written constitution, and a separate bank account controlled by more than one signatory.

Assessment Procedure

Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

The Parish Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it considers to be inappropriate, or against the objectives of the Council.

Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Parish Council from exercising, at any time, its existing duty or power in respect of providing financial assistance or grants to local or national organisations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137.

For generic applications that do not fit the criteria, the clerk does not have to forward them onto to every councillor or include in the February meeting.