

Acklington Parish Council

Donations and Grants Policy (England)

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how the Council will consider requests for financial assistance to support local organisations and activities that benefit the community.

The Council recognises its powers to award grants under:

- Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972
 - The Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence, where adopted)
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2. Objectives

The Council aims to:

- Support community groups and local initiatives
 - Improve the quality of life for residents
 - Promote community wellbeing and cohesion
 - Ensure fair and transparent allocation of public funds
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3. Available Funding

3.1 A budget for grants/donations will be set annually as part of the Council's budget-setting process.

3.2 The total amount available will be agreed by the Council and funded through the precept.

3.3 The Council reserves the right not to allocate all funds in any given year.

4. Eligibility

Applications will be considered from:

- Local voluntary and community groups
- Charities
- Not-for-profit organisations

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate a clear benefit to residents of Acklington
 - Have a bank account in the organisation's name
 - Provide supporting documentation if requested
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5. Ineligible Applications

The Council will not normally fund:

- Individuals (except in exceptional circumstances)
 - Commercial or profit-making organisations
 - Political parties or activities
 - Religious organisations (unless for community benefit projects)
 - Retrospective applications (for costs already incurred)
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6. Application Process

6.1 Applications must be submitted in writing using the Council's application form.

6.2 Applications should include:

- Details of the organisation
- Purpose of the funding
- Amount requested
- Evidence of need
- How the community will benefit

6.3 The Council may request:

- Accounts or financial statements
 - Safeguarding policies (if relevant)
 - Insurance details
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7. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Community benefit
 - Value for money
 - Financial need
 - Sustainability of the project
 - Alignment with Council priorities
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8. Decision-Making

8.1 All grant decisions will be made by full Council.

8.2 Decisions will be:

- Recorded in the minutes
- Based on objective criteria

8.3 The Council is not obliged to provide reasons for refusal, but feedback may be given where appropriate.

9. Conditions of Funding

Successful applicants may be required to:

- Use the grant only for the agreed purpose
 - Provide evidence of expenditure
 - Return unused funds
 - Acknowledge the Council's support in publicity
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10. Monitoring and Reporting

10.1 The Council may require a report on how funds were used.

10.2 Failure to comply may affect future applications.

11. Safeguarding and Equalities

11.1 The Council will expect funded organisations to:

- Comply with safeguarding requirements where applicable
 - Promote equality and inclusion
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12. Transparency and Accountability

12.1 All grants will be reported publicly in accordance with:

- The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

12.2 The Council will ensure openness in the use of public funds.

13. Conflicts of Interest

13.1 Councillors must declare any interest in an application in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

13.2 Councillors with an interest must not participate in the decision.

14. Review of Policy

This policy shall be:

- Reviewed annually
 - Updated in line with guidance from NALC, SLCC, and UK Government
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Adoption

This Donation and Grants Policy was adopted by Acklington Parish Council:

Date: 3rd March 2026

