



Rusper Parish Council
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Grant Awarding Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 Rusper Parish Council recognises the value of voluntary and community groups in the local area. Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to make grants to organisations that provide services or activities which directly benefit local residents.

1.2 This policy sets out the procedure and criteria for awarding grants in a fair, transparent, and accountable way.

2. Purpose of Grants

2.1 Grants awarded by the Council are intended to:

- Support local voluntary and community initiatives;
- Promote community wellbeing and inclusion;
- Provide services that benefit residents of the parish;
- Enhance the local environment, culture, sport, or education.

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1 To be eligible for a grant, organisations must:

- Be non-profit, voluntary, or charitable in nature;
- Operate within or benefit residents of the parish;
- Demonstrate financial need and value for money;
- Submit a completed application form with supporting documentation.

3.2 Grants will not normally be awarded to:

- Individuals;
- Commercial or profit-making organisations;

- Political or religious groups (unless for non-political, community benefit purposes);
- Projects that have already been completed.

4. Section 137 Compliance

4.1 Expenditure under Section 137 must:

- Be for a purpose that is not otherwise authorised by another power;
- Benefit some or all inhabitants of the parish;
- Be commensurate with the benefit obtained.

4.2 The total amount spent under Section 137 must not exceed the statutory limit per elector, as set annually by government.

5. Application Process

5.1 Applicants must:

1. Complete the Council's grant application form;
2. Provide a recent set of accounts or financial statement;
3. Submit a clear description of the project and expected outcomes.

5.2 The Council will review applications at scheduled meetings. Late or incomplete applications may be rejected.

6. Assessment Criteria

6.1 Applications will be assessed based on:

- Local benefit and community impact;
- Evidence of need and how the grant will be used;
- Financial viability of the organisation;
- Availability of alternative funding;
- Compliance with legal and ethical standards.

7. Conditions of Funding

7.1 Grant recipients may be required to:

- Acknowledge the Council's support in publicity materials;
- Provide a report on how the grant was used;
- Return unused funds or funds used contrary to the original application.

8. Decision-Making

8.1 The Parish Council's decision is final. The Council reserves the right to:

- Approve, reduce, or refuse any grant;
- Set a limit on the total grant fund available annually;
- Review and amend this policy as required.

9. Review of Policy

9.1 This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if required by changes in legislation or Council priorities.

Adopted: