

Houghton Parish Council

Grant Awarding Policy

Introduction and Objectives

A grant is a payment made by the Parish Council to be used by a community 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 Council.

Houghton Parish Council has a small budget for the award of grants and encourages projects that will enhance the wellbeing of the community through providing additional services or facilities, improving or protecting existing groups.

Policy

The Parish Council will consider Grant Applications for activities which it can legally support with due regard to legislation such as:

- Local Government Act 1972 (Section 137). "A Local Authority may, subject to the provisions of this section, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants."
- Local Government Act 1972 (Section 145). "A local Authority may do, or arrange for the doing of, or contribute towards the expense of the doing of, anything (whether inside or outside their area) necessary or expedient for any of the following purposes" i.e. provision and promotion of entertainment, arts and crafts."
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (Section 19 – recreational facilities). "A Local Authority may contribute by way of grant or loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing recreation facilities which the authority has power to provide."
- The amount of grant requested is commensurate with the benefit to the community

Applications WILL NOT be considered from:

- Organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party or to discriminate on the grounds of race or religion.
- Private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
- Local groups whose funding is sent to their central HQ for distribution.
- National charities.

The Parish Council expect to provide a portion of the costs, with the requesting group providing the remainder. The maximum that the Council usually provides is to match the funds provided by the requesting group.

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The Parish Council encourages requesting groups to seek other sources of funding, Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council both have voluntary group funding available.

Parish Council reserves the right to request any further information that it deems necessary to assist in its consideration of the application.

Any unspent portion of the grant awarded should be returned to the Parish Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded.

Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A new application is required each time.

An organisation may only apply for funding once in each financial year. Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively. i.e. applications will not be funded where the expenditure has been made, the project has been carried out or the event has taken place.

The council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which is considered to be inappropriate or against the objectives of the council.

Application

Applications should be submitted to the Clerk on the appropriate Grant Funding Request Form, available to download from the Parish Council website or available on request from the Clerk. Once received the Clerk will confirm on which agenda the application will be presented for Parish Council consideration. The requesting group will be invited to attend the meeting and answer any questions the Councillors may have.

Policy Amendment record:

Adopted: 6th March 2018, minute item 9

Reviewed and adopted 8th September 2020, minute item 8

Reviewed, amended and adopted 16th May 2023, minute item 10a

Review date: 2025