

Report Item 135-20/21 Grant Awarding Procedure & Policy

To; Councillors

From; Clerk

Background

Grant requests have previously been submitted to the Parish Council for consideration at the annual budget meeting in November, giving organisations only one opportunity per annum for a grant request to be considered.

Alternatively, a set amount could be considered at the budget meeting, with the recommendation going to the Full Parish Council meeting in December). Grant applications could then be considered by the Finance Committee at their quarterly meetings, with the recommendation going to the next Full Parish Council meeting.

Standing Order – Ordinary Council Meetings 5K (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) xx

‘Review of the Council’s expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the general power of competence.’

Where there is no Statutory Power to award a grant, if the criteria is met S137 can be used.

S137 is most frequently used to provide a general power for a parish council to spend a restricted amount of money to do something, which will be of direct benefit to its community either as a whole or in part, when there is no other legislation allowing it.

S137 limit 2020/21 £8.32 per electorate = £8.32 x 1,558 (electorate 21/11/19) = £12,962.56

Grants 2020/21

£ 800.00	Cricket Club (maintenance of village green)
£ 400.00	St Andrews Church (statutory power to assist with the maintenance of grave yards)
£ 300.00	Link Magazine
£ 250.00	Heart Beat (Replacement Cpad batteries)

£1,750.00

Suggested wording for a new grant application policy;

A Parish Council is empowered to incur expenditure in the execution of any works in order to exercise its statutory powers. There is also a power to incur expenditure for the benefit of the area of some or all of its residents (Local Government Act 1972 s137).

Nuthurst Parish Council will consider grants from voluntary groups or charitable organisations. To qualify, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that funding will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish. Grants will normally only be considered quarterly by the Finance Committee, which holds meetings approximately four times a year. The dates of these meetings are advertised in advance and are available from the Parish Council Office and website.

The Grants budget will be set annually as part of the general budget setting process.

In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Examples of purposes that applications will be considered for:

- To purchase equipment either in part or in full.*
- For the funding of transport to enable members to partake in a group trip or outing.*
- For training activities.*
- For activities that raise the profile of the area.*
- For running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.*
- For hosting special events or celebrations.*
- For the provision of recreational facilities.*

Conditions:

- Grants will not be awarded to individuals.*
- Additional applications within a 12 month period will not normally be considered*
- The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.*
- If the group is unable to use the award before the proposed end date then an explanation should be provided to the Parish Council.*
- Awards must be accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied as requested. If the council is not satisfied that the grant has been spent as defined; they reserve the right to request a refund.*
- Any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the written approval of the Parish Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies.*
- Any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Parish Council within 6 months after the proposed end date of the project.*
- An acknowledgment of the contribution should be made to the Parish Council and wherever possible, the Parish Council requests that reference is made to the grant in the organisation's annual accounts.*
- This policy may be amended at any time by the Council following a motion having been published on the agenda.*
- Preference will be given to awards which will produce some prompt and tangible benefit for the people of Nuthurst.*

Eligibility:

- Any Charity, Voluntary Group or Community Organisation operating within the parish.
- Agencies that operate within the Parish and are of benefit to the local community, with the following provisos:
 - The Parish Council will NOT fund activities that it considers to be the responsibility of a Statutory Authority.
 - Applications from schools for an activity that takes place within the school day will not be considered.
 - The Parish Council will not fund activities outside its powers and functions.

Submission of the Application:

- Applications must be submitted to the Clerk at the address given above.
- The application should be supported by a copy of the latest set of annual accounts.
- The number, or percentage, of members that belong to the organisation and that live within the Nuthurst Parish Area

[Existing Grant Awarding Policy](#)

Recommendation – For the Members to agree to the Grant Awarding Policy to be updated and for a sum to be agreed at the budget meeting for consideration by the Full Parish Council.