

DRAFT Fringford Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy

July 2016

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 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 will consider applications for grants from voluntary groups, village groups or charitable 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, and promoting the Parish of Fringford in a positive way.

This could include:

- the purchase of equipment either in part or in full;
- the funding of transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes;
- training activities, or to purchase the expertise of an outside trainer / instructor / facilitator;
- activities that raise the profile of the area;
- running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship;
- the hosting of special events or celebrations;
- the provision of recreational facilities.

The Parish Council is NOT able to 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 centrally HQ for redistribution
- political parties
- religious organisations – unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief.

Conditions

1. Additional applications within a 12 month period will not normally be considered.
2. The award must be used for the purpose for which the application was made.
3. If the group is unable to use the award for the stated purpose, all monies must be returned to the Parish Council.
4. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied as requested. If the Parish Council is not satisfied with the arrangements, they reserve the right to request a refund of monies awarded.
5. Donations to Registered Charities in response to a general fundraising appeal will not normally be considered.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the Full Council.

Applications and Decision

The Parish Council will usually discuss grant applications at each meeting.

The maximum amount awarded to one group will be £ [tbc]

Application requests should be in writing and include the following information:

1. Organisation details - name, contact address, telephone number.
2. Reason for application.
3. Value of grant requested.
4. Whether the grant will be of benefit to the village and who it will benefit.

Application letters should be sent to:

The Parish Clerk

13 Oak Close

Bicester

Oxfordshire

OX26 3XD

01869 247171

fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com

This policy was adopted by Fringford Parish Council at its meeting on xxx.