

PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS POLICY

Scope of Funding

A grant is any payment 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 of part of it, or of some of it” and “the direct benefit should be commensurate with expenditure”.

Funding support will be considered to voluntary and community sector organisations that are:

- based in or around the Parish and delivering activities or services to the people of the Parish;
- based outside the Parish boundary but providing activities or services not otherwise available to the people of the Parish

Policy

The Parish Council awards grants, at its discretion, to 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;
- promoting the Parish in a positive way.

The Parish Council will not 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” i.e. local groups where fund-raising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution;
- Political parties;
- Religious organisations, unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief.

Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year. Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year. Grants will not normally be made retrospectively

Availability of Funds

The availability of funds to support voluntary activity is dependent on the Council’s overall financial position and the choices it makes when allocating its resources. In a given year, there may not be a budget for grants provided within the Council’s financial plan. In such circumstances, grant applications will not be considered.

Where grants are considered, applying organisations should be aware that the Council has finite financial resources, and will seek to allocate them as evenly and fairly as possible. Once the total grants budget has been allocated, no more funding will be available during that financial year.

It is not just the role of the Parish Council to award grants. Where possible it actively encourages organisations to seek grants from other agencies to finance projects.

Application procedure

Organisations requesting financial assistance should submit letters of application, to the Parish Council for consideration, usually, at its meeting in **November** of each year.

Organisations will be required to explain the reasons for the grant with clear aims and objectives. It should also state if it is seeking funding elsewhere, and should provide some evidence of its current financial position. It should be clear how the grant, if made, would benefit the people of the Parish and the Parish Council.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits. However, to ensure as fair a distribution as possible of available funds, the Parish Council will take into account the amount and frequency of any previous awards. Due account will also be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or fund raising activities.

Giving of a Grant

If the application for a grant is successful the organisation/group should provide the Council with a report showing how the money was spent, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Parish Council’s support should be acknowledged on all publicity by the recipient of the grant.