

WESTERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Grants and Charitable Donations Policy

1. Definitions

A grant is awarded for a particular defined purpose. A donation is awarded for general purposes.

2. Statutory Power

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows local authorities, including Parish Councils, to incur expenditure which will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it, or to all or some of its inhabitants.

The normal use to which this power is for the Parish Council (PC) to provide funding to local organisations. However, there may indeed be occasions where the grant can be paid to an individual where that individual is carrying out a service which benefits the local population, e.g. a Community First Responder (NHS trained volunteer).

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for parish and town councils in England for 2023-24 is £9.93¹ per elector, and for 2024-25 is £10.81 (as listed in the electoral role on 1st January before the commencement of the financial year).

Money used for grants or donations is funded from the Precept.

3. Policy

- i) Applications will be accepted throughout the financial year from individuals (on behalf of a group) or not for profit community groups, where the donation is to provide benefit to residents of the Parish.
- ii) All applications for grants or donations shall be made in writing to the Clerk.
- iii) Any grants or donations must be authorised and minuted at a PC meeting, and shown in the council's accounts.
- iv) Applicants will be notified of whether their request has been approved in due course. Successful applicants shall provide details of to whom payment should be made and acknowledge receipt of the payment.
- v) The grant or donation shall only be used for the stated purpose otherwise the monies shall be returned to the PC.
- vi) The PC's decision on any application is final and there is no right of appeal.
- vii) The PC reserves the right to decline any application without giving reasons for its decision.

¹ This is the amount as a result from increasing the amount of the previous financial year by the percentage increase in the retail index between September of the previous and current financial years, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

- viii) Where a Councillor is a member of a group/organisation applying for funding, they must declare, in accordance with its Code of Conduct, an interest in the matter and refrain from voting.