



Grants and Donations Policy

The Parish Council regularly receives requests for grants and donations from a variety of groups and organisations. A grant or donation is any payment made by the Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish or residents of the Parish.

Eligibility

The Council will only consider applications for grants and donations from organisations and groups which are non profit or charitable, and are based within the Parish or who can demonstrate that the donations will substantially benefit residents of the Parish. An organisation must have a bank account in its own name.

The Council cannot fund:

- Individuals
- Political parties
- Religious organisations; unless a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious beliefs
- Organisations not registered as charities or not considered not for profit, for example businesses
- National organisations except where it can be demonstrated that the donation will substantially benefit residents of the Parish
- Organisations, groups or projects which discriminate on any grounds
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.

Applications

Applicants are required to complete an application form which is available from the Parish Clerk or the Council's website. The Clerk will receive all applications and collate the necessary information, ready for presentation and consideration at the appropriate Council meeting. Further documents may be requested as detailed on the application form. Applicants are invited to contact the Parish Clerk for any further information or advice.

All applications will be considered by the full Council. All applicants will be advised of the outcome, whether successful or not, by the Parish Clerk.

Conditions

1. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.
2. Where requests for a grant or donation are agreed, the Council shall determine the amount.
3. The Council may make the award of any grant or donation subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.
4. The grant or donation shall be used only for the stated purpose otherwise the money shall be returned to the Council except where prior written consent has been given by the Council to vary the use of the funding.
5. The Council may request that applicants provide written feedback explaining how funding has benefitted their group or organisation.
6. The Council reserves the right to request repayment of any grant or donation where an applicant does not comply with these conditions.
7. Retrospective applications will normally not be considered.
8. If approved, the funding will be paid by cheque or bank transfer to the organisation's bank account only.
9. The Council's decision on any application is final and there is no right of appeal.
10. The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application.
11. The Council will not commit to any continuing expenditure in future years.
12. Where a Member of the Council is a Member of a group/organisation applying for funding, that Member shall consider whether, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, it is necessary for them to declare an interest in the matter. Advice may be sought from the Clerk or Monitoring Officer of Durham County Council.