

Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy

Adopted January 2017

Introduction

A grant 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, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Council. These grants are covered by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council awards grants, at its discretion, to Parish organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit the Parish by:

- Providing a service;
- Enhancing the quality of life;
- Improving recreation and/or sports;
- Improving the environment;
- Promoting the Parish of Sturminster Marshall in a positive way.

Grant Application Process

1. The Clerk to the council will receive all applications in the first instance and will then collate all the necessary information from the applicant ready for presentation and discussion at the appropriate Council meeting.

2. Organisations will be required to provide the following supporting information:

- a copy of their written constitution or details of their aims and purpose,
- full details of the project or activity,
- demonstration that the grant will be of benefit to the local community within the Parish,
- the number of beneficiaries living in the electoral area,
- demonstration of a clear need for the funding,
- a copy of the previous year's accounts or, for new initiatives, a detailed budget and business plan.

3. The Council will expect to receive in writing to the Clerk any expression of interest for a possible grant application exceeding £100 by 30 September of the financial year prior to the funds being required in order that budget provision can be considered.

4. The Council will make the decision on which grants to award. All applicants will be contacted following the Council's decision.

5. Funds available are limited and guidance can be given to applicants as to how much money is likely to be available in a specific financial year.

Conditions of Funding

1. The organisation must be either non-profit or charitable. Applications will not be considered from private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.

2. Grants will not be made to projects that discriminate on any grounds.

3. Grants will not be made to individuals.

4. Grants will not be made retrospectively.

6 The administration of and accounting for any grant shall be the responsibility of the recipient. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be supplied to the Council as requested.

7. Only one application for a grant will be considered from each organisation in any one financial year.

8. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

9. The Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate. The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it considers to be inappropriate or against the objectives of the Council.

10. Any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the written approval of the Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies, and that any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded.

11. The Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy as it considers appropriate in the event of any unforeseen urgent event.

12. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Council from exercising, at any time, its existing duty or power in respect of providing financial assistance or grants to local or national organisations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137.