



Where a Council has no specific Power set by statute to fund or contribute towards specific expenditure, the Local Government Act 1972 s137 provides for local councils to provide financial support – up to a maximum per elector s137 (4)(a) reviewed and amended annually, set by the DLUHC.

Introduction to Policy

A grant is any payment or gift made by the Council to an organization/group for a specific purpose, primarily capital purchase that will benefit Clophill, or residents of Clophill, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council. Enabling financial assistance to be granted when not covered by a specific duty or power of the Council (see appendix A "Powers and Duties of Parish Councils) the LGA 1972 makes provision for section 137 grants to be made. Such grants must be "in the interests of or will directly benefit the area or its inhabitants, or of 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. The Council may as it sees fit, allocate an annual budget to facilitate grant payments within the permitted allowance per elector calculated annually by the DLUHC (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government)

Policy

In the event that the Parish Council has budget allocated to grant payments it will awards grants, at its absolute discretion, to organisations/groups 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 of Clophill in a positive way.
- Funding of capital purchases will be considered primarily with other expenditure received considered following this, within budget set.

The 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.

This list is not exclusive and may be added to at the council's discretion. Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organization/group in any one financial year. On-going commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. Applications may be made each year however no guarantee of yearly funding is made by permitting this. Grants will not be permitted retrospectively, applications should be submitted prior to expenditure by applicants.

Application Procedure

Grant applications will be considered twice a year, at the March and October meetings.

Organisations/groups requesting financial assistance are required to fully complete an application form available from the Clerk of the Council and Website, and once completed return with all information requested for the application to be considered. Failure to attach all requested information may delay consideration of the application.

The following details will be required, accompanying the application

- Copies of their last year end accounts,
- The number, or percentage, of members that belong to the organization/group and that live within the Parish Area,
- Details of any restrictions placed on who can use/access their services,
- Details of the organisation/group policy in relation to Equal Opportunities,
- Organisation/group will normally be expected to have clear written aims and objectives, a written constitution, and a separate bank account controlled by more than one signatory.

In a situation where the whole fund awarded is not applied to the purpose requested, the remaining sum must be returned to the council.

Assessment Procedure During the Council's annual budgeting process a fund will normally be set for grant applications for the following financial year.

Once the grants budget is exhausted, the Council will only consider emergency requests for assistance and those of a highly compelling nature.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits. However, the applicant should expect the Council to take into account the amount and frequency of any previous

awards and the geographical spread within the parish. Due account may also be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or fund raising activities. The Council may make the award of any grant 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. 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.

Successful Applications

A grant award must only be used for the purpose stated on the application. If the /group is unable to use the money, or any part of it, for the purpose stated, then all monies, or unexpended part of such monies must be returned to the Council.

The Council may request proof of expenditure. Organisations/groups receiving grants are required to advise their users/members that the grant or equipment has been received from Clophill Parish Council. Where appropriate, the Council may require a notice to be affixed. Where equipment is gifted to an organization/group, the Council requires that it be insured and maintained at the expense of the user.

It is a condition of payment of all grants that the Council is indemnified against any loss or damage to persons or property howsoever following the award of a grant whether that be in relation to the items employed or services provided linked to the award of the grant.