

GRANTS POLICY

Purpose

1. The parish council occasionally receives requests for grants from a variety of organisations and aim of this policy is to encourage and support activities and projects which benefit residents.

Introduction

2. A grant is any payment made by the council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the parish, and /or residents of the parish, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the council.
3. The council will award grants, at its discretion, to community organisations and activities which contribute constructively to the life and wellbeing of some or all of the residents within the parish. For example
 - Providing a service
 - Enhancing the quality of life
 - Improving recreation and /or sports
 - Improving the environment
 - Promoting the parish in a positive way

Policy

4. The parish council will consider applications for grants from not-for-profit community organisations/groups or charitable organisations based in the parish, or you can demonstrate that the funding will substantially benefit residents of the parish.
5. Each year the parish council will agree an annual budget for the award of grants as part of its annual budget setting process.
6. Each year the parish council will agree the maximum amount of an individual grant award. Typically, this will be in the region of £250.
7. All applications for grant funding must be submitted direct to the parish clerk no later than 30 November each year for funding from the following years budget provision.
8. The council may increase the budget provision for the award of grants should its funding position change during any year.
9. To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate:
 - That there is a need for the activity or project to be funded

- That funding will benefit the parish or residents of the parish
- That it does not discriminate on grounds of racial origin gender, disability, age (except for obvious reasons, such as becoming a member of a youth club) and political or religious persuasion.

10. The council will not fund:

- Private Individuals
- Political Parties
- Religious organisation unless a clear benefit to the community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious beliefs.
- National organisations except where it can be demonstrated that the funding will substantially benefit residents of the parish.
- Applicants submitted after the closure date, unless in exceptional circumstances, such as in cases where it can be clearly demonstrated that the activity is of an urgent nature that could not have been foreseen
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.
- Applications exceeding the maximum individual grant award determined each year, except where it can be clearly demonstrated that additional funds are essential, and the benefits are proportionate with the additional expenditure
- Retrospective applications

Grant application and award process

11. Any application for funding must be made using the application form attached at Appendix A.
12. A guidance note has been prepared to assist applicants. This is attached at **Appendix D**.
13. Application forms are obtainable from the parish clerk or can be downloaded from the council's website.
14. On receipt, the parish clerk will review the application and supporting information and follow up any queries or obvious omissions with the applicant.
15. If the demand for funding exceeds the budget available, eligible applications will then be initially prioritised for funding by the parish clerk. **Priority will be given to those applications which contribute the most to any documented council priorities and /or which demonstrate the greatest need and benefits for the parish and /or its residents.**
16. All eligible applications will then be considered by the full council, together with any recommendations made by the parish clerk, to agree which activities or projects to fund.

17. Where a member of the council is a member of a group /organisation applying for funding that Member must 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 Herefordshire County Council if required.
18. Where additional information is considered necessary to fully consider or prioritise an application, applicants will be invited to meet with full council to further discuss the application prior to a decision being made.
19. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of council funding decisions.
20. All awards will be subject to the applicant accepting grant terms and conditions as set out in Appendix C.
21. The council reserves the right to make an award of any grant subject to additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.
22. The council's decision on any application is final and there is no right to appeal.
23. The council reserves the right to decline any application which it considers inappropriate or against the objectives of the council without giving reasons for its decision.
24. The council will not commit to any continuing expenditure unless previously approved.
25. Nothing in this policy prevents the council from providing a grant to a group or organisation or project without application where the council considers that the giving of such a grant will bring benefits to the parish or its residents, e.g in the event of an unforeseen emergency event.

Approval and Review Arrangements

26. This policy was approved by full council at its meeting on ???
27. It will be reviewed on an annual basis by full council.

Appendix A - Peterchurch Parish Council Grants Policy – Application Form

This application form relates to projects to be considered for funding from the 2022-23 Parish Council Budget.

Please read the enclosed grant conditions and guidance note before completing your application (Appendix D).

The completed application together with the necessary supporting documentation should be returned to Parish Clerk no later than DD/MM/YY.

Please complete all sections in Black Ink or electronically. If handwritten, continue on additional sheets as necessary.

1. Your Organisation	
Name of organisation	
Contact Name	
Position in organisation	
Address for correspondence	
Tel No.	
Email address	
2. Details of Organisation	
Type e.g voluntary not for profit, registered charity	
Brief description of your organisation aims	
Do you have a constitution or other document that provides more details about your organisation. If yes, please submit a copy in support of your application	
How long has the organisation been in existence?	
Is it run by a committee?	
If yes, how many committee members?	
Can anyone join?	
If not, what are the restrictions?	
How often do you meet?	
Where are meetings held?	
Are they public meetings?	
How many members do you have?	
How many members live in West Rainton and Leamside?	
3. Your activities	

Please give a summary of the activities of your organisation during the last year. If you are a new organisation, please outline the type of activities you wish to undertake	
4.The Project	
Please give details of the project, activity or service that this application relates	
Why is it needed?	
When will it start?	
When will it end?	
What is the total cost?	
How much is this grant application for?	
How will this be used?	
How will this benefit local residents?	
Please give details of any other funding you been awarded or applied for in respect to this project. (Funder, amounts, usage etc.) (Please provide copies of grant award offers in support of your application).	
5. Financial Details	
Copy of your latest bank statement enclosed?	Yes / No
If no, please state why not?	

Copy of latest auditor accounts/financial statement enclosed?	Yes / No
If no, please state why not	
Please provide details of and / or enclose any supporting documentation or other relevant financial information that the parish council should be aware of in considering this application. E.g. quotations received to confirm project costs/amount applied for and /or ,if newly formed,, budget and business plan	
Details of to whom the cheque payment should be made payable to and the address to where this should be sent should your application be successful	

Declaration

I declare that I have the necessary authorisation from
..... (name of applicant organisation) to
submit this application and the information provided is correct.

Completed by:

Name:

Position in organisation:

Signed

Date

Grant Conditions

28. Funding must be used to benefit the parish or its residents and expenditure must be proportionate to the benefit
29. Applicants must strive to achieve good value for money in all its expenditure and obtain competitive quotes wherever possible
30. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they are following all legal and statutory requirements relevant to the activity/project and have any necessary insurance arrangements in place.
31. The grant shall only be used for the purpose stated on application otherwise the money shall be returned to the council, except where the council's prior written consent has been given for the funds to be used for another purpose.
32. 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 retained and supplied to the council as requested.
33. The council reserves the right to request repayment of any grant where an application does not comply with the conditions accepted on award.
34. Failure to adhere to the councils grant conditions may impact on the success of future funding requests.
35. Where a grant is awarded, payment will only be made on receipt of a grant award acceptance form (Appendix C) confirming the agreement to the councils grant terms and conditions.
36. Payment will be made by cheque to the organisation and not an individual
37. Should the organisation disband during the period of the grant the council may ask for all or some of the monies to be paid back
38. Organisations must contact the council before disposing of any equipment or resources purchased or partly funded with grant funding from the council
39. Acknowledgement the financial support received from the council is required on documentation and any promotional literature or other media operation.

Grant Acceptance Form

I/We accept the offer of award of £X datedawarded to
.....from Peterchurch Parish Council in respect
of.....

1/we declare that we are authorised to act on behalf of the
applicant,.....and agree to accept the
terms and conditions as detailed below relevant to this award.

Signed:

Position:

Date:

Guidance Note for Applicants

1. This guidance note has been prepared to assist organisation who may be considering applying to the parish council for a grant. It is part of the council's grant policy. A copy of the policy is available from the parish clerk on request or can be down loaded form the website.
2. The council will award grants, at its discretion, to community organisations and activities which contribute constructively to the life and wellbeing of some or all of the residents within the parish. For example
 - Providing a service
 - Enhancing the quality of life
 - Improving recreation and /or sports
 - Improving the environment
 - Promoting the parish in a positive way
3. To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate:
 - That there is a need for the activity or project to be funded
 - That funding will benefit the parish or residents of the parish
 - That it does not discriminate on grounds of racial origin gender, disability, age (except for obvious reasons, such as becoming a member of a youth club) and political or religious persuasion.
4. Examples of the type of activities or expenditure that can bring benefits to the community include
 - Purchasing equipment
 - Transport that will enable group members to partake in a trip or outing
 - Training activities or purchase of expertise of an outside trainer/instructor/facilitator
 - Running costs of a viable group that is experiencing a temporary period of hardship
 - Hosting special events or celebrations
 - Provision of recreational facilities
 - Provision of street furniture, planters and plants
5. Certain types of organisations and activities that will not be funded. include:
 - Private Individuals
 - Political Parties
 - Religious organisation unless a clear benefit to the community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious beliefs.

- National organisations except where it can be demonstrated that the funding will substantially benefit residents of the parish.
 - Applicants submitted after the closure date, unless in exceptional circumstances, such as in cases where it can be clearly demonstrated that the activity is of an urgent nature that could not have been foreseen
 - Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.
 - Applications exceeding the maximum individual grant award determined each year, typically £250, except where it can be clearly demonstrated that additional funds are essential, and the benefits are proportionate with the additional expenditure
 - Retrospective applications
6. It should be noted that this list may not be exhaustive, and the council reserve the right to decline any application which it considers inappropriate or against the objectives of the council without giving reasons for its decision.
7. All applications should be made using the application form attached, completed in black ink.
8. If you require assistance in completing the application form or submitting the supporting information, please contact the parish clerk at:

Peterchurch Parish Council
 Rosemary Cottage
 Madley
 HR2 9LS

Email: peterchurchclerk@gmail.com

9. **Please ensure that you sign the declaration at the end of the application form. This should be signed by someone who is authorised to act on behalf of the organisation and in signing accepts responsibility or the accuracy of information provided.**
10. Completed applications form should be returned to the parish clerk by post or email.
11. Please note that all applications must be returned by the closure date specified on the application form. Normally this will be the 30 November each year so that funding requests can be considered as part of the budget setting process for the following year. Applicants made in one financial year should therefore be in respect of activities or projects that are due to commence in the following financial year. i.e after the 31st March.

Please ensure that your application specifies the expected start date of the project or activity.

It should be noted that if an activity will be repeated in future years, a separate application must be made. i.e grants awards cover only one year and a successful application for funding in one year does not guarantee the award of grant for the same activity in the following year.

12. In support of your application, you should also provide:

- A copy of your constitution
- A copy of your latest bank statement(s) showing financial balance(s)
- A copy of your latest audited accounts
- Details of any current relevant financial information
- Copies of any grant award letters from other funders relevant to the application
- Details of to whom the cheque payment should be made payable to and the address to where this should be sent should your application be successful
- The period of activity or service.

13. If any of the above is not available, please give the reason on the application form. If your organisation is newly formed, please include a copy of the budget and business plan.

14. Please feel free to submit any additional information you consider relevant in support of your application.

15. It should be noted that the council may require additional information to fully consider or prioritise an application, and applicants may be invited to meet with full council to further discuss the application prior to a decision being made.

16. Failure to supply any information requested by the council may hinder the success of your application.

17. It should be noted that the council's decision on the consideration of applications is final and there is no right of appeal.

18. Any award approved by the parish council is made subject to the acceptance of terms and conditions. A declaration signed by the authorised officer of the organisation agreeing to these terms and conditions must be received before payment is made.

19. The terms and conditions that will normally apply are given below.

- Funding must be used to benefit the parish, or its residents and expenditure must be proportionate to the benefit
- Applicants must strive to achieve good value for money in all its expenditure and obtain competitive quotes wherever possible

- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they are following all legal and statutory requirements relevant to the activity/project and have any necessary insurance arrangements in place.
- The grant shall only be used for the purpose stated on application otherwise the money shall be returned to the council, except where the council's prior written consent has been given for the funds to be used for another purpose.
- 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 retained and supplied to the council as requested.
- The council reserves the right to request repayment of any grant where an application does not comply with the conditions accepted on award.
- Failure to adhere to the councils grant conditions may impact on the success of future funding requests.
- Where a grant is awarded, payment will only be made on receipt of a grant award acceptance form confirming the agreement to the councils grant terms and conditions.
- Payment will be made by cheque to the organisation and not an individual
- Should the organisation disband during the period of the grant the council may ask for all or some of the monies to be paid back
- Organisations must contact the council before disposing of any equipment or resources purchased or partly funded with grant funding from the council
- Acknowledgement the financial support received from the council is required on documentation and any promotional literature or other media operation.
- It should be noted that the council reserves the right to make an award of any grant subject to additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.