Grants Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set a framework by which the council can support local groups through grants

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Adopted date: Review date:

**Powers used to grant monies:**

Parish Council Act 1957

Local Government Act 1972 S137 & S214

The Localism Act 2011

**General notes**

There are various acts of Parliment that grant powers to Councils enabling it to spend money.

The Localism Act 2011 grants parish councils a “General Power of Competence" which allows great flexibility in how councils spend money within the local community.

There are two criteria that a council must meet in order to use these powers.

Firstly, it is necessary that the council has a qualified clerk and secondly, at least two thirds of the councillors have been elected

rather than co-opted or appointed.

Currently Wistow Parish Council does not meet the criteria to use the Localism Act.

Therefore all grants fall under either statutory powers granted in the Local Government Act 1972, which permits councils to spend up to a certain limit on anything which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the parish, or part thereof, or is in the interest or all or some of its inhabitants.

The Council can also use the Parish Council Act 1957, which allows the funding of certain objects in the village, for example, seating, shelters, lighting and providing or maintaining public clocks.

The amount that can be granted using s137 is index linked and limited to a figure per head of the electorate on the electoral role on 1st

January before the commencement of the financial year, as this figure alters every year, the clerk shall update this figure annually before the Grant meeting.

Grant payments made by the Council must be used by the organisations for a specific

purpose for the benefit of the Parish, or residents of the Parish, examples of which are:

* to provide a service
* enhance the quality of life
* improve recreation and/sports
* Improve the environment.

The Council awards grants at its discretion.

**Application process:**

Organisations must complete an application form, available either from the Councils website or from the Clerk, all questions on the application form should be completed in full, and include complete details of the project or activity the grant is to be used for.

In conjunction with the completed form, the applicants must also provide the council with a copy of the groups annual accounts. If there are no accounts on the basis that the group is newly formed, then a detailed financial plan shall be accepted in place of the accounts.

Established groups must deliver their applications in writing to the Clerk between the dates of 1st November and 20th February. [Newly formed groups can apply at any point by completing the form and delivering it to the Clerk, then proceed to the apply again after 1st November for the following years grant process.]

The Clerk shall then collate all necessary information to be presented to councillors at the Parish Meeting in March

At the meeting the council will deliberate on all individual applications on their own merit and decide whether to award the grant in full, amend the grant figure or deny the application in full

A written response shall be provided to the organisations and posted on the Councils website

further grant applications may be considered at subsequent meetings, but only if there is sufficient justification as to why the application was not submitted by the deadline (e.g., the organisation did not exist at that time, or the need could not have been identified at that time)

**Conditions of grants:**

* Payments cannot be made to an individual, as such, the organisation should have a bank account in its name, payment will be made to the named organisation
* Grants will not be made retrospectively
* Grants must only be used for the purpose for which they were awarded, unless the written approval of the Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies
* The Council may make the award of any grant subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate
* Only one application will be considered from each applicant in any financial year
* The Council may make the award of any grant as it considers appropriate in the event of any unforeseen urgent event.
* The Group must provide the council with proof that they have used the grant for its correct purpose within a twelve month period. The council can ask for unused grants can be returned to the council.
* Groups should also post online, either on Facebook, or its own website, the works carried out with thanks to the Parish Council for the grant.

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| Group Name: |  |
| Grant amount: |  |
| Reason of application: |  |

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| Councils response |  |
| Awarded under power |  |
| Granted |  |