



WATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Policy

Minute Ref: 139/25

Date: 8/7/25

WPC Grant Making Policy

Context: The Council is funded by the residents of Watlington to assist community organisations located and working in Watlington for the benefit of the community, i.e. the Parish of Watlington.

Subject to funding being available, the Council is committed to providing assistance and support to local community groups which are set up to promote community life for residents. The Council's financial support is provided by way of grants which are decided against criteria set by, and which can be amended from time to time by, the Council.

Objectives

The Council provides grant funding to support the following aims:

1. Enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities.
2. Help the parishes' voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness.
3. Help ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents, via the voluntary sector.
4. Support organisations which meet the needs of people experiencing social and economic difficulties.
5. Ensure that there is equality of access and opportunity for all parishioners of Watlington to the services it provides and funds.
6. Improve or enhance the local environment.
7. Promote the development of partnerships which encourage and enable local community organisations to deliver

Scope

All Watlington-based voluntary groups, i.e. non-profit making organisations are eligible. They must be set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee and with a written constitution and dedicated bank account.

The Council can only donate funds to organisations if the Council have a 'Power' to do so.

The Council will not fund the following:

1. Individuals or appeals supporting an individual.
2. Statutory organisations or the direct replacement of statutory funding.
3. Political groups or activities promoting political beliefs.
4. Religious groups where funding is to be used to promote religious beliefs.
5. Arts & sports projects with no community or charitable element.
6. Medical research, equipment or treatment.
7. Animal welfare.
8. Organisations that have a closed or restricted membership.

Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year to year basis.

Mechanism

Applications for grants will be submitted using the application form to be found on the Parish Council web site. No other submissions will be considered, in order to ensure a 'level playing field' for all applicants.

The application will be assessed by the Finance Committee within four weeks of the submission and a recommendation to accept or reject made to the next scheduled Council meeting. Applicants may be asked to provide further detail for clarification.

The following criteria will be applied to determine the value of applications:

1. Compliance with the grant giving policy, as described in 'Objectives' and 'Scope' above
2. Number of Watlington residents impacted by the grant
3. Timescale for delivery of the benefits
4. Duration of the benefits provided
5. Evidence of a well-managed group including previous experience and track record.
6. Financial sustainability and viability of group and/or project.
7. Evidence of partnership working.
8. Evidence that funding has been sought from other sources, where possible, and the level of match funding available.
9. Evidence of compliance with previous grant award conditions and timely delivery of benefits

The outcome of the assessment of the application will be notified to the applicant by the chair of the Finance Committee within two weeks of the decision. The funds will be transferred immediately thereafter.

Depending on the value of the grant applied for and the planned timescale for delivery the Council reserves the right to withhold a percentage of the funds pending review of how the delivery of the benefits are progressing. Regardless, applicants are expected to provide the Council with written evidence of how the money has been spent and the benefit it has brought to the people of the Parish.

The delivery of the benefits accruing from awarding the grant will be monitored by the Finance Committee at not more than 6 months intervals. The recipient organisation may submit evidence of compliance with the terms of the grant, e.g. invoices, purchase orders, photographs testimonials etc. The Council may request an inspection to verify the progress made on delivery. If delivery progress is not as stated in the application the Council may withhold further funding and/or claim a refund of a percentage of any monies paid to date.