

Buckland Brewer Parish Council

Grants Awarding Policy

Approved: September 2018

Introduction

A grant is any payment or gift made by the Parish Council to 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 Parish Council.

Budget

Buckland Brewer Parish Council allocates expenditure in its annual budget to support the community through the grant process. Specific sums are budgeted for organisations that the Parish Council has resolved to support annually. A separate amount is set aside for ad-hoc applications. All organisations, including those covered by annual budget allocations, are subject to meeting the criteria contained with this policy.

Power to award Grants: Section 137

The law requires that, in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, 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”. Each year the Secretary of State sets an amount per elector which in total must not be exceeded. All grants awarded under S137 will be recorded and published in accordance with LGA 1972 s228.

The Clerk will provide the Council with the appropriate legal advice under which power each grant can be awarded.

Policy

Buckland Brewer Parish Council recognises the value of voluntary community activity and its contribution to residents’ well-being, the local economy, and the sustainability of a wide range of services which benefit visitors and people living and working in the parish.

The Council awards grants, at its discretion, to parish organisations which 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 in a positive way

The policy and procedures are based on the principles of fairness, responsiveness to local need, generosity and accountability. The Parish Council awards grants, at its absolute discretion, to

organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to achieve an objective which will benefit the parish.

The Parish 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
- religious organisations: unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief

This list is not exclusive and may be added to at the Council’s discretion.

Additional information

Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year. Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year. This will be at the discretion of the council.

Grants will not be made retrospectively.

The Parish Council will not fund 100% of costs; matched funding is usually required. However, the Parish Council reserves the right to award a higher ratio of the project cost should it resolve to do so.

Grant applications will only be considered if submitted on a Grant Application Form accompanied with a copy of the latest set of approved accounts.

Return of funding

If a grant is not spent within twelve months from the date awarded, the Council reserves the right to ask for repayment. In addition, if:

- the contract is breached and monies are not being used for the purpose specified on the application form, or
- if the organisation has submitted any dishonest or misleading information on the grant application form, or
- if the organisation ceases to exist, becomes insolvent, goes into administration, receivership or liquidation,

then Buckland Brewer Parish Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in full.

Publicity

Organisations receiving grant funding from the Council are asked to include mention of the financial support from Buckland Brewer Parish Council in any publicity associated with their project or event.

This Grant Awarding policy was approved at the meeting of Buckland Brewer Parish Council held on 12th September 2018 and will be reviewed annually with effect from May 2019.