Grant and Donations Policy for Great Canfield Parish Council

Objective

The Parish Council wishes to support activities and causes which benefit the parish of Great Canfield. A grant is any payment made by the Parish Council for the specific purpose for which it is claimed and for the well being of the community.

Parish Council Powers and Section 137

A Parish Council has a number of powers granted under various Acts of Parliament which enable it to spend money.

In addition, if a council lacks a particular power it may consider the use of the statutory power of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits it to spend *up to a certain limit* on anything which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interest of all or some of its residents. This amount is limited to a figure per head of the electorate on the electoral role and is revised annually by government.

The Parish Council has no obligation to spend all or any of the money available under Section137. This money is not 'gifted' to the Parish Council; it forms part of the Precept which the Parish Council makes on the District Council. The cost of any grants or donations is therefore reflected in residents' council tax bills.

Eligibility

Any grant made by the Parish Council can only be used for projects or events that will directly benefit some or all of the residents of the parish of Great Canfield.

The following criteria must be met for a group to be considered for a grant:-

- The group must be a charity, voluntary or community organisation;
- The group must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the Parish Council will directly benefit the residents of Great Canfield;

Private individuals, commercial organisations, religious groups, unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief, 'upward funders" i.e. local groups where fund-raising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution or political parties are not eligible for grant funding.

Application Guidelines and Conditions

- Applications can be made at any time and should be made to the Clerk, in writing or via e.mail. The application should state the names(s) of the applicant, their full contact details, a description of the project or event, relevant timescales and deadline and a breakdown of total costings.
- Grants can be used to either pay for a project or event in total or as part contribution to the cost. The application should make clear what other sources of funding are available and what other grant applications (if any) have been made. The application should also make clear what would happen if not all the monies applied for were made available.
- Grants will only be available for "not for profit" projects or events.
- The method by which any Grant is paid will be decided in discussion with the applicant. The Council may choose to pay suppliers directly on behalf of the applicant or may pay the Grant on the submission of receipted invoices. If the Parish Council is not satisfied with the arrangements it reserves the right to request a refund of monies awarded.

- Grants cannot be awarded after the relevant project or event has been completed.

- Multiple applications within a 12 month period will not normally be considered;

- The provision of a Grant by the Parish Council does not mean that the Parish Council is responsible for the project or event or will underwrite any loses made be the organiser. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they have appropriate and adequate funding and insurance.

- The decision on applications will be made by the Parish Council and will be publicised in the Council Minutes.

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Promotion

The Parish Council will ask for recognition from successful groups in the form of the promotion of the Parish Council in the organisation's newsletter or any press release. The Parish Council will also recognise successful groups in its own reports to residents.

Date of policy: 2022
Approving committee: Parish Council meeting in 2022
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Date for next review: 20th April 2027