

Hoath Parish Council - Grants Policy

Introduction: A grant is any payment 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.

POWER TO AWARD GRANTS

General Power of Competence: Hoath Parish Council has not adopted the General Power of Competence and is therefore unable to award grants on this basis. However, the Parish Council can use the Section 137 finance framework below.

Section 137: Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables local councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other statutory duty. The amount they can spend is limited by the number of persons on the Electoral Register. Hoath Parish Council is committed to giving financial support to local initiatives but has a responsibility to distribute grants in a fair and equitable manner to reflect the value of the organisations, services or activities to the residents of Hoath.

To this end the Parish Council will consider only donating to organisations, services or activities that can demonstrate the money will make a real difference to the services that they offer to the Parish.

Budgeting within the Council's precept: The Parish Council allocates funds for the purpose when setting its annual precept. Whilst regular requests may often be anticipated, Council should also allow for unexpected requests by reserving funds for unexpected grant requests.

POLICY

Grant Requests: Any and all grant requests are to be made to the Parish Clerk and will usually be considered by the Parish Council at its Full Parish Council meetings. Each request will be considered individually and will be treated on its own merits.

The Parish Council will award grants, at its discretion, to organisations that can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to the benefit of 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.

Exemptions: 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 fundraising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution;
- political parties;
- religious organisations, unless for a purpose that does not discriminate on grounds of belief.

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

Further questions that may be considered:

- Will the grant bring a direct benefit to all or part of the Parish or to all or some residents?
- Can it be demonstrated how the grant will be used?
- Is the benefit commensurate with the expenditure?
- What other funding is available which might achieve the resulting benefit?
- Should the request be funded by another statutory body/authority?
- Is there evidence (usually the last audited accounts) of the financial need for the grant?
- Will the grant be used for the purpose specified and if not used for that purpose, does the applicant understand that it must be returned to Hoath Parish Council?
- Does the Council have the precept funds to award the grant?
- Does the overall grant funding remain within statutory limits?
- Has a grant to the applicant already been awarded in this 12-month period?

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 will not generally 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 should ideally be submitted on a Grant Application Form accompanied by a copy of the latest set of approved accounts, but at the Council's discretion other applications may be considered if sufficient information is provided.

Return of funding: If the grant is not spent within twelve months from the date awarded, the Council reserves the right to ask for repayment. In addition, the Parish Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in full if:

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

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

Outcomes: All those making requests are to be subsequently advised of the Parish Council's decision.

What is the grant for and who will benefit? (give as much detail as possible)
What is the total project Cost?	£.....
Amount of grant requested:	£.....
Have you applied to any other body for funds towards the project? (give details)

Do you receive funding from other sources, if so who? Give details of subscriptions, fundraising, etc.
What age group do you cater for?
Please supply financial records:
If you have previously received a Grant from Hoath Parish Council, please provide details:
Bank Account Details: (for if application is successful)	Bank Name: Sort Code: Account Number:
Signature and title (Chair, President, Treasurer, etc.)

Please attach for your latest accounts and your constitution.