



Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council

North Yorkshire

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GRANT AWARDING POLICY

Introduction:

A grant is a payment awarded by the Parish Council to an organisation for a specific purpose/project that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council. Grants are limited and are made available to organisations who must demonstrate a need for assistance.

Budget:

The Parish Council have the power to allocate an amount in its annual budget to support the community through the grant process. The amount is discussed and decided at the November Parish Council meeting within their budget preparations for the following financial year.

Power to award grants:

The Parish Council have legal powers to award grants to certain types of organisations.

Section 137

The law requires that in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA) 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 and the amount set by the Secretary of State for each financial year.

Policy:

Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council recognises the value of voluntary community activity and its contribution to resident's well-being, the local economy and the sustainability of a wide range of services which benefit visitors and people living and working within the Parish.

The Parish Council awards grants, at its discretion, to Parish Organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to achieve an objective which will 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 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 Parish Council's discretion.

All applications will be considered on their merits, but in general grants will be awarded for capital projects, such as purchase of equipment, works to buildings, improvements to premises. In addition, the Council may support a community event, festival or other special event.

The Parish Council will take into account any previous application made to an organisation or group when considering a new application.

Conditions of Support:

Applications must be made using the Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council application form which is available on the Parish Council website or from the Parish Clerk.

- * Where expenditure on a specific project exceeds £500 quotations from at least three providers must accompany the application form.
- * Funding must only be used for the purpose agreed with the Parish Council and if monies are not spent on the project/items agreed, they must be returned.
- * Funding must be spent within the financial year awarded and cannot be added wholly or partly to your reserves.
- * Details must be provided of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fundraising activities.
- * A copy of your latest approved statement of income and expenditure or other financial report which indicates your financial position is required.
- * Photocopy of bank statements covering the past six months.
- * In order to fully understand your project or activity the parish councillors may wish to visit your project/activity once the funded activity is underway.
- * The need to provide evidence of expenditure to the Clerk to the Council on completion of your project, will be discretionary - based on the amount given and the purposes given.
- * The Parish Council should be notified once the project/activity has been finalised/completed.
- * You should show the grant awarded separately in your published financial accounts and Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council should have access to your financial records, on request, where appropriate.

When to apply:

Applications can be made once all details of the project/purpose are completed including all quotations and evidence of funding being sought or secured from your sources or your fund-raising activities.

Grants can be awarded throughout the current financial year and ring fenced for payment within future financial years.

How decisions will be made:

All applications will be considered at the next available Parish Council meeting following receipt of an application. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month, excluding August and December.

The Councils decision is final. All applications will be carefully considered, and due account will be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities.

Grant Policy adopted on: *Kevin a Pon*

Signed: *20/02/2020* (Chairman)