

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL GRANT AWARDING POLICY

Adopted by a resolution of Barton Parish Council on 08/09/2020

Introduction

Barton Parish Council ("the Council") has numerous statutory powers to make funds available to local individuals or organisations for the overall benefit of Barton Village or its residents (per the document available on the Council's website entitled "Statutory Powers").

Where there is no specific statutory power allowing funds to be distributed, the Council may use S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to spend a restricted amount of money to do something which will be of direct benefit to its community as a whole or part. Expenditure under s.137 is limited to an amount per elector, currently £8.32, which increases in line with the Retail Price Index and can only be used where the benefit obtained is commensurate with the expenditure incurred. This restricted amount cannot be exceeded and is funded from the Council's budgeted income or reserves.

The Council's principal source of income is the annual parish precept which residents pay as part of their annual Council Tax. It is the Council's intention to manage the annual precept request so as to avoid putting any significant additional burden on residents. Reserves are maintained in order to have capacity to meet non-routine expenditure outside the annual budget should the need arise. The amount of annual budget available for grants is therefore limited and applicants for grants should not expect significant sums to be available. In the current budget, for example, a sum of £1000 has been allocated for grants (including those under s. 137 as mentioned above) so long as such funds are available. This allocation cannot be exceeded.

General Principles

The Council's intention is to support initiatives from local community groups and organisations, subject to any budgetary restrictions and available resources, which are consistent with any strategic priorities or village plans which may exist from time to time.

In the interests of fairness and transparency this policy sets out the Council's guidelines for the awarding of grants and explains the application process.

Eligibility to Apply

The following may apply to Council:

- any organisation serving the needs of the residents of Barton
- any resident or residents requesting grant aid with a project or event which will be for the benefit of the local community
- a club or association serving a specific section of the community or the community as a whole
- a local branch of a regional or national organisation which serves the needs of the residents of Barton

Ineligibility to Apply

Applications from the following will not be eligible other than in exceptional circumstances :

- charities
- projects which are the prime responsibility of other government bodies, local or regional authorities
- projects which benefit privately-owned land or property
- support for individuals or private businesses
- for-profit commercial organisations
- projects already completed before the grant is approved
- grants for ongoing expenditure or revenue running costs
- organisations outside the Parish of Barton unless a direct benefit to the residents of Barton can be demonstrated
- organisations with party political affiliations
- organisations which discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender or disability

Likelihood of Funding

Subject always to the availability of budgetary resources, priority will be given to those projects or other requests which add value to the local community in terms of the social, environmental or economic profile of Barton village and its residents. Criteria for assessment of applications is likely to include the following:

- how well the grant will meet the needs of the community and bring positive benefit to residents
- how effectively the applicant(s) will use the grant
- whether the costs are appropriate and realistic for the stated purpose
- whether there is a measure of self-funding to add credibility to the stated purpose

Applications which are less likely to be considered for grant funding may include:

- projects suffering from a large shortfall in the funding required for completion
- cases where the grant funding would be too small to make a material difference
- projects seeking to replace facilities rather than add new and improved value

Conditions of Grant Funding

In the event that a grant is awarded by the Council the following conditions will apply :

- Council support must be acknowledged as appropriate in any publicity and promotional material including but not limited to posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets
- financial support can only be used for the purpose for which the grant was given
- any grants used for purposes other than those originally described must be refunded to the Council
- grants must not be distributed to any other organisation

- a progress report on the specific project and proof of the grant spend will be provided to the Council on request
- in the event of cancellation of a project or underspend any surplus grant funds must be returned to the Council
- should any grant-funded event result in a profit to the organisation in question the Council may request the return of the grant funding

Applications

Applications Forms can be downloaded from the website <https://bartonvillage.org/your-council/policies/Grantapplicationform> or by contacting the Clerk on Tel:- 07742 256557

Completed forms should be submitted in writing to the Parish Clerk detailing the following :

- the organisation or individual(s) making the application
- the amount requested and any other sources of funding
- the purpose for which the money is sought
- the timing of the need for disbursement

Applications will initially be reviewed by the Council Finance & Governance working group, which will make recommendations to the Council based on criteria of general eligibility, the impact on local needs, community support, value for money, environmental impact and any other relevant considerations. Applicants should expect the process of application and decision to take 2-3 months to allow for both the Finance & Governance working group meetings and the subsequent Council meeting.

Approved and adopted by Barton Parish Council on

08/09/2020



Sarah Pitchford

Chairperson



Ian Minto



Clerk