

Darrington Parish Council

Policy on Grants

(under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972)

Adopted January 2023

Introduction

This Policy sets out the Parish Council's position and procedure with regards to the award of S137 grants.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 137, Darrington Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will be of benefit to residents within the parish of Darrington.

This document sets out the Parish Council's policy and procedure for grants and donations under Section 137 of the above Act with its aim of ensuring that its award-making activity is open, transparent, fair and supports local organisations. The Parish Council's awards are open to established voluntary or community groups, as well as new or informal groups of parishioners who are or intend by the date of application to become formally constituted.

Conditions

- Grants will not be awarded to individuals.
- Grants will not be awarded to National Charities.
- Grant payments will not be made until receipts or invoices have been provided to the Council.
- The award must be used for the purpose it was made.
- The Council will not fund activities that it considers to be the responsibility of a statutory Authority.
- Applications from schools for an activity that takes place within the school day will not be considered.
- Any grant that the Council offers is on the understanding that the applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary legal permissions (including insurances) The offer of the grant by the Council should not in any way be taken as any authorisation.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for the award of a grant under Section 137 an organisation must:

- Be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes.

- Grants may be made to religious organisations for social or welfare purposes, but not to cover the costs of worship or conversion.
- Have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives and operational procedures.
- Be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and be able to demonstrate that the accounts are checked and signed by a person independent of the group or if the organisation does not prepare annual accounts, copies of the bank statements covering the previous six months must be enclosed.
- Have a bank account in the name of the organisation.
- Where a Member of the Parish Council is a Member of an organisation/group applying for funding, that Member must declare, in accordance with its Code of Conduct an interest in the matter and refrain from voting. Advice may be sought from the Monitoring Officer.
- The organisation/group making a grant request should be a non-profit making or voluntary organisation where membership is open (i.e. no discrimination of membership on grounds of race, sex or religion etc.).

What can be funded?

The project should be something which makes the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit:

- It should benefit people who live in the parish.
- Each group may only make one application per financial year.

The following are not eligible:

- Support for individuals or private business projects.
- The running costs of any organisation.
- Projects which are the prime statutory responsibility of other government bodies.
- Projects which improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
- Projects which have already been completed or will have been completed by the time the grant is made.

Conditions of support

- The Parish Council may make the award of any grant subject to all or some of the following conditions. Required conditions will be at the discretion of the Council, to consider an organisation's individual circumstances.

- To fully understand your project or activity, Parish Councillors may wish to visit your project prior to it commencing. They may also wish to conduct a site visit once your funded project or activity project is underway.
- Funding must only be used for the purpose agreed with the Parish Council.
- Funding must be spent within the financial year awarded and cannot be added wholly or partly to your reserves.
- If your project costs are more than you anticipated on your application, any shortfall must be met by you.
- The Parish Council would ask that you acknowledge it's support in your publications, publicity and annual reports.

When to apply

The Parish Council will consider applications at their monthly meetings.

- Awards will not exceed the agreed annual budget unless the Parish Council agrees to make an award under exceptional circumstances.
- All groups will be treated equally.
- If an organisation has had a grant previously, they are not guaranteed to receive financial support again, but are not excluded from applying again in a different financial year.
- A fresh application will be required each time.

How will decisions be made?

- All applications will be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- Decisions will be made by Darrington Parish Council with its decision being final.
- Unfortunately, the Parish Council may not be able to fund all projects as there may be more applications than there is money available.
- However, all applications will be considered carefully.
- Due account will be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or the applicant's own fund-raising activities.
- Successful applications will be recorded in the Council meeting minutes.

How to apply

Applications should be made in writing on the Section 137 Grant Form and emailed to clerk@darrington.org.uk.

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 36, enables Councils to incur expenditure for certain purposes, not otherwise authorised, which in their opinion is in the interest of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The benefit obtained must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. The annual expenditure must not exceed the total electorate multiplied by the annual statutory limit per elector.

Darrington Parish Council

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please read the Parish Council's policy for awarding grants before completing this form.

Please note that this application will not be considered unless it is fully completed and signed.

| | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1 | Name of Organisation | |
| 2 | Name, Address and Status of Contact | |
| 3 | Telephone Number of Contact | |
| 4 | Is the Organisation a Registered Charity? If yes, please give Charity Number | Yes / No |
| 5 | Amount of grant requested | £ |
| 6 | For what purpose or project is the grant requested? | |
| 7 | What will be the total cost of the above project? | £ |
| 8 | If the total cost of the project is more than the grant, how will the residue be financed? | |
| 9 | Have you applied for grant for the same project to another organisation? If so, which organisations and how much? | Yes / No |
| 10 | Who will benefit from the project? | |
| 11 | Approximately how many of those who will benefit are parishioners? | |
| 12 | When is this project to be completed? | |

You may use a separate sheet of paper to submit any other information which you feel will support this application.

Signed.....

Date.....