

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Etchingham Parish Council – Grants to Village Organisations

Adopted 15th November 2012

Reviewed and updated 17th May 2018.

Introduction:

The Parish Council regularly receives requests from Village Organisations for grant aid in connection with their activities, some of which are annual requests and others that are one off or periodic. The Council has previously considered such requests on an individual basis and no common approach has been adopted for consideration of the requests. The Council has, in recent years, advertised the willingness to consider grant applications and invited Village Organisations to submit requests for consideration at the annual Budget/Precept setting Council meeting, usually in December.

The main provision for financial assistance to local organisations and which provides the Power for Council to provide grants is contained in the following legislation:-

a)The Local Government Act 1972, Section 145 – for the provision of entertainment and support of the arts;

b)The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 19 – enables a local Council to contribute by way of grant or loan towards expenses incurred, or to be incurred, by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities which a local Council has power to provide, and also to make a grant towards the expenses of any other local authority in providing such facilities.

c)The Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 as amended by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 37 and LGA 2000, Section 8 – empowers local Councils to make grants to voluntary bodies, and also to Charities and Disaster Appeal Funds, where no specific grant-making power exists in other legislation and where, in the Council's opinion, the grant will benefit any part of its area or any of the inhabitants. The maximum amount which a Council may spend under Section 137 in any one year is an index-linked amount per head of the 'relevant population'; the relevant population is the number of persons on the electoral roll for the parish as at the 1st April. The value for the current financial year 2102/13 is £6.80 per person.

d)The Localism Act 2011, Part 1 – Chapter 1, General Powers of Authorities, General Power of Competence; the Council is currently not an 'Eligible' Council as prescribed in the Order by the Secretary of State

Current Practice:

It has been the practice of the Council to consider applications on an ad hoc basis although, as stated above, in the last two years Village Organisations have been asked to submit any request for grant in time for consideration at the annual Budget/Precept meeting. In addition Village Organisations have in recent times also been asked to provide details of their financial status.

A number of Village Organisations have received a grant from Council for several years, whereby it has been regarded as an annual grant and formed a part of the Organisations financial planning. The Council has in recent months, especially with the pressure to reduce public expenditure and avoid any Precept increase, made clear that the grant from Council cannot be considered as a guaranteed annual contribution.

Members are now invited to give consideration to the adoption of a Policy for Grants to Village Organisations by agreeing to the following Grants Protocol:

Protocol for Grants to Village Organisations:

The Parish Council will publish the Protocol for Grants to Village Organisations in the following ways;

- a) On the Parish Council website
- b) Through the E-Bulletin
- c) By inclusion in the Parish Council Newsletter
- d) By distribution to all existing Village Organisations
- e) By distribution to any new grant applicant

The Protocol for Grant Applications will be as follows:

- 1) All Village Organisations will be invited to submit any grant application by 30th November in each year for consideration as part of the annual Budget/Precept exercise.
- 2) Village Organisations will need to state clearly as part of their application what the grant is required for; e.g. assistance with running cost, staffing, equipment etc.
- 3) Village Organisations must submit with their application details of their current financial status, wherever possible this should be the latest verified accounts or financial statement.
- 4) Village Organisations will also be asked to indicate what fundraising activities they have, or intend to undertake, in respect of the subject for which a grant is sought and how much they estimate they will raise.
- 5) The Parish Council will notify all applicants of the outcome of their application, in writing, and give details of any conditions attached to the grant to be provided.
- 6) If a grant is approved for an Organisation, it will be the responsibility of the Organisation to claim the grant at the beginning of the relevant financial year, or if for a specific event or item of equipment when purchased or held.
- 7) If the grant is in respect of an event, it will be a condition of the grant that the support of the Parish Council is mentioned in any publicity or press release.
- 8) If the grant is for an amount of £1000 or more it will be a condition of the grant that the Council receives a written report confirming that the grant has been used for the purpose intended; a copy of the Organisations Annual Report with mention of the grant would be acceptable.
- 9) The Council will be prepared to consider one-off applications or requests for emergency assistance, at any time during the year but Village Organisations will be made aware that if the request cannot be met from any contingency provision the Council might have in the Annual Budget then it is unlikely to be able to assist. It will only be in the most exceptional of circumstances that the Council will consider making a grant from its General Reserve Funds.
- 10) It is a condition of any grant that it be used solely for the benefit of the local inhabitants of the parish of Etchingam; the grant is not transferrable to any other Organisation and must not be used for any purpose other than that stated in the application.