



GRANTS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

A grant is any payment or gift made by the Parish Council (“the 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 Council. The law requires that Section 137 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”. Similar considerations will apply when considering applications for other grants.

POLICY

The Council awards grants, at its absolute discretion, to organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to achieve an objective that will benefit the Parish by:

- providing a service to members of the Parish
- enhancing the quality of life for those living in the Parish
- improving the local environment
- promoting the Parish in a positive way

Exemptions

The Council will NOT award grants to:

- Private individuals;
- Commercial organisations;
- Political parties;
- Religious organisations: unless for a purpose which does not discriminate on grounds of belief.
- “Upward funders” i.e., local groups where fundraising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution.
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.

This list is not exclusive and may be added to at the council’s discretion.

Additional Information

Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation in any one financial year.

Grant applications will be accepted throughout the year; however, any applications received after March 1st will be carried over to the next 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.

Application Procedure

All applications for funding grants must be made in writing to the Parish Clerk and include a postal address. Applications can be made by email with attached supporting documents to parish.clerk@acastermalbis-pc.gov.uk.

The Council may request the following information from organisations applying for grants;

- Copies of their last year end accounts (if appropriate),
- The number, or percentage, of members that belong to the organisation and that live within the Parish Area,
- Details of any restrictions placed on who can use/access their services.

Assessment Procedure

All grant applications will be considered at the next Council Meeting once initial validity checks have been completed by the Clerk. Each application will be assessed on its own merits, and typical questions asked include:

- 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?
- The grant must be used for the purpose specified or should be returned to Acaster Malbis Parish Council.
- Does the Council have the precept funds to award the grant?
- Does the overall grant funding remain within statutory limits?
- Has funding been sought from other sources or fundraising activities?

The Council may make the award of any grant or subsidy subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate. The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it considers to be inappropriate, or against the objectives of the Council.

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 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;
- the organisation has submitted any dishonest or misleading information on the grant application;
- the organisation ceases to exist, becomes insolvent or goes into administration, receivership, or liquidation.

Publicity

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