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COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY 2026

This policy was approved by the council at its meeting held on 15th January 2026, minute number 26-016.

Purpose of scheme

Whitwick Parish Council will allocate a sum of money at the beginning of each financial year to assist local groups to undertake projects or activities of benefit to the community. The grant can be used for a number of purposes including community activities, environmental work, provision of community facilities, and recreational events or activities.

Who can apply?

Local groups and organisations are eligible to apply provided the money is to be used for the direct benefit of the parish or part of the parish, and to some or all of its inhabitants. Each application will be considered on its merits, and any grant or donation will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred. Evidence of the extent of services provided within the parish may be sought. When determining applications, the Council will have regard to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 except where an alternative regulation is more appropriate.

Those not eligible for a grant under this scheme

The following are not eligible for a small community grant:

- Profit making organisations.
- Individuals requesting funding for personal benefit (this includes sponsorship for charitable purposes, travel grants and educational purposes).
- Church groups requesting funding for activities of benefit to members only or to promote religious activities (applications for church repairs are eligible).
- Political parties
- For purposes that are the responsibility of statutory agencies.

However, any groups or organisations NOT eligible under this scheme can still make application direct to the Parish Council for a grant or donation funded by other means.

Grant limits

- Under normal circumstances the group or organisation will be expected to raise at least 25% of the total cost from other sources.
- Because the grant available is limited, a maximum of £250 per application will normally apply.
- If the Council considers that there are exceptional circumstances, then it can decide to exceed these limits.
- Only one grant will be given to any group or organisation, or for one particular purpose or event, in any financial year (1st April to 31st March).

Notes for applicants

Applications will be considered by the Council at an ordinary meeting. Therefore, applicants should allow a minimum of 6 weeks for an application to be processed. Applications will be dealt with throughout the year on a first-come first-served basis.

Under S.137(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, contributions may be made to any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the UK, or anybody which provides any public service in the UK.

How to apply

Application forms can be downloaded from this website or obtained from the Parish Clerk and should include quotations where appropriate. The Council may request additional information in order to consider applications and will, if requested, assist in providing details of alternative sources of funding or funding advice.

Expectation of the applicant

The successful applicant will be required to agree to the following conditions:

- To keep the Council informed of progress with the work or activity and to notify it if there are any problems achieving agreed objectives.
- To complete the work or activity for which a grant has been given within six months, unless agreed with the Council that an extension will be allowed.
- To confirm that the money has been spent in accordance with the grant application.
- To repay any unspent grant within eight months of the grant being made.
- To acknowledge the Council's assistance in publicity produced by the group in relation to the work or activity receiving funding.
- To agree to the Council publicising details of the grant.