

BROADCLYST PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Awarding Policy

Introduction to Policy

A grant is any payment or gift made by the Parish 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 Parish Council.

Budget

Broadclyst Parish Council allocates an amount in its annual budget to support the community through the grant process. The amount for 2016/17 is £3,000. An additional £1,500 has been allocated to support emerging communities in the West End of East Devon.

Power to award Grants

General Power of Competence

Broadclyst Parish Council has various legal powers to award grants to certain types of organisation without needing to use its powers under the Power of General Competence (GPC) as it fulfils the criteria to use the GPC.

Section 137

The law requires that in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 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”. Each year the Secretary of State sets an amount per elector which in total must not be exceeded.

All grants awarded under S137 will be recorded and published in accordance with LGA 1972 s228

The Clerk will provide the Council with the appropriate legal advice under which power each grant can be awarded.

Policy

Broadclyst Parish Council recognises the value of voluntary community activity and its contribution to residents' well-being, the local economy, and the sustainability of a wide range of services which benefit visitors and people living and working in the parish.

The Council awards grants, at its discretion, to Parish Organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit the Parish by:

- Providing a service;
- Enhancing the quality of life;
- Improving recreation and/or sports;
- Improving the environment;
- Promoting the Parish in a positive way.

The policy and procedures are based on the principles of fairness, responsiveness to local need, generosity and accountability.

Exemptions:

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

The Parish Council will NOT award grants to:-

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

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.

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.

The Parish will not fund 100% of costs; matched funding is usually required, however Council reserves the right to award a higher ratio of the project cost should it resolve to do so.

Grant applications will only be considered if submitted on a Grant Application Form accompanied with a copy of the latest set of approved accounts.

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 if:

- a) The contract is breached and monies are not being used for the purpose specified on the application form, or
- b) If the organisation has submitted any dishonest or misleading information on the grant application form, or
- c) If the organisation ceases to exist, becomes insolvent, goes into administration, receivership or liquidation,

then Broadclyst Parish Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant in full.

Publicity

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

The Grant Awarding policy was reviewed and updated at Broadclyst Parish Council's Finance Committee meeting on 21st January 2016 as part of its internal financial controls. The Finance Committee recommend this final draft policy to Full Council at its meeting on 1st February 2016 for adoption