



## GRANT AWARD POLICY

Stretton Parish Council is committed to supporting and strengthening the many community groups and organisations that help to make a positive difference to the Parish.

The Parish Council is aware that it can make a significant difference through its community grant process which provides a relatively small amount of funding each year.

The Parish Council can only award grants using certain legal powers. Where there is no statutory power the Parish Council may use Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to give grants to community organisations. This power may only be used if its use will benefit some or all of its residents or some or all of the area and where the benefit obtained is commensurate with expenditure incurred.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

At the discretion of the Parish Council, grants are awarded to community organisations and groups which demonstrate a clear and justifiable need for financial support in aid of projects and/or activities which will benefit the Parish community.

Grants will not be made to individuals; nor to organisations / groups based outside the Parish unless they can demonstrate a clear benefit to the Parish.

Grants will not be made retrospectively and only one application for a grant will be considered from each organisation in any one financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March).

Grants will not be made to political parties or to organisations intending to support or oppose a political party.

Grants will not be offered to cover revenue funding.

Religious organisations may only apply for a grant if it is clearly shown that the project will benefit the wider Stretton parish community, regardless of religious beliefs.

The Council will only consider grant applications for more than £2000 in exceptional circumstances where a significant and wide-ranging community benefit are clearly demonstrated in the application form.

For applications in excess of £1,000, evidence of a consultation with the local community must be provided in evidence of support.

Organisations applying must be able to submit audited accounts.

If completion of a project or activity is predicted to span more than one financial year, a clear forecast will be needed of when whole or phased funding is required.

The Parish Council must be credited in any publicity arising as a result of the award of a grant.

## **Application Process**

Applicants will be required to complete an application form (available on the website) and return it to the Clerk to the Council. The Clerk will answer any questions that they may have in this respect.

Applicants will need to provide details of: their aims and purpose; project or activity for which the grant is intended; how the project will benefit the Parish community; anticipated overall cost of the project; grant applied for; other sponsors / fund raising activities / grant awarding organisations involved and demonstrate a clear need for funding.

The Parish Council may seek a meeting with the applicant to explore in more detail what the organisation is applying for and trying to achieve.

All applicants will be contacted within two weeks of the Parish Council decision.

The Parish Council decision will be final and not open to appeal.

Payment of the awarded grant will be made within a month of the approval decision.

Applicants are required to complete a report on completion of a project which has been the subject of a grant award

## **Application Assessment**

The Parish Council will determine :

how well the grant will meet the needs of the community,

how effectively the grant will be used by the applicant,

if the project costs are appropriate and realistic,

what level of contributions have been raised/or applied for in addition to the grant,

the amount of grant to be awarded for the application.

## **Additional Conditions**

If the grant is put to purposes other than those for which it was awarded and without prior approval of the Parish Council, then repayment of the grant will be required.