

GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY

1. GENERAL NOTES

For the purposes of this policy donations and grants differ only in that a donation is given without the need to be specific about how it is used whereas a grant must be spent specifically for the purpose agreed. For example a donation may be given towards general running costs of an organisation without being specific about what it is spent on whereas a grant would be given towards the cost of specific project.

The Town council's aim is to ensure that all our award-making activity is: open; transparent; fair; competitive and supports local organisations

Our awards are open to established voluntary or community groups, as well as new or informal groups of residents who are or intend by the date of application to become formally constituted.

2. TOWN COUNCIL POWERS – General Power of Competence and Section 137

Whaley Bridge Town Council has the General Power of Competence, if it meets the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 which allows the Town Council more flexibility in how it spends money within the local community. In order to use this power it is necessary that the council has a qualified clerk, and at least two thirds of the councillors have been elected rather than co-opted or appointed.

If Whaley Bridge Town Council cannot use the General Power Competence it also has the power provided by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This section allows the Town Council to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory expenditure. Under the section the Town Council is able to spend on purposes for the direct benefit of its area, or part of its area, or all or some of its inhabitants.

The total amount the Town Council can spend under this section for the 2021/22 financial year is £8.41 multiplied by the total number of electorate as at 1st April which leaves £43,513.34 available to spend.

The Town Council has set a budget of £2,000.00 for Grants and Donations in the 2021/22 financial year. Under a resolution the Town Council may use money from their reserves to finance projects over this £2,000.00 as long as it does not exceed the max expenditure under section 137 and the relevant due diligence on the reserve levels is carried out.

3. WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible for the award of a grant an organisation must:

- be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational or philanthropic purposes,
- have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives and operational procedures,
- be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and/or most recent bank statement. Accounts are to be checked and signed by a person independent of the group,
- have a bank account operated by a minimum of at least two joint signatories.

4. WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

- the project should be something that makes the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit
- it should benefit people who live in the Parish
- there must be clear evidence that local people support the project and are involved in carrying it out
- applications do not have to be from groups that already exist
- each group may only make one application per financial year
- applications will be considered for day-to-day running costs and individual projects

5. THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

- Support for private business projects.
- Projects that are the prime responsibility of other statutory authorities.
- Projects that improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
- Projects that have already been completed or will have been by the time the grant is made.

6. CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

The council may make the award of any grant subject to all or some of the following conditions. Required conditions will be at the discretion of the council and take into account your organisation's individual circumstances.

- The application must be made in writing to the Clerk.
- Details must be provided of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities.
- Funding must only be used for the purpose agreed with the Town council and if the monies are not spent on the items agreed, they must be returned.
- Funding must be spent within the financial year awarded and cannot be added wholly or partly to your reserves.
- You must acknowledge Whaley Bridge Town Council's support in all publications, publicity and annual reports.
- You should show the funding awarded separately in your published financial accounts and Whaley Bridge Town Council should have access to your financial records, on request, where appropriate.
- A report be given to the Annual Meeting of the Council on how you spent the money.

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