



## **Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council**

### **Grants Policy**

Reviewed and adopted 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Minute 24/63.5

Next Review May 2027

## **Parish Grant Scheme - Guidelines for Applicants**

### **What is a Grant?**

A grant is any payment made by the Parish Council to an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish or residents of Laughton-en-le-Morthen, and which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council.

Grants are often made under powers granted to the Council under Section 137 of The Local Government Act 1972. The law states that these grants must be “in the interests of, or will directly benefit the area or its inhabitants, or of part of it, or of some of it” and “the direct benefit should be commensurate with expenditure”.

### **Who Can Apply for A Grant?**

Funding support will be considered to voluntary and community sector organisations that are: -

- based in or around the Parish and delivering activities or services that benefit our Parishioners,
- based outside of the Parish but are providing activities or services not otherwise available to the people of our Parish.

The Parish Council will not award grants to: - 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.

### **What types of things does the Grants Cover?**

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

- providing a service
- enhancing the quality of life and/or reducing social isolation
- improving the environment
- Promoting the Parish in a positive way

The scheme will support start-up costs for new groups and capital and revenue projects for existing groups.

Last Review Minute Reference 18/132.8. Ref 21/16.6. Ref 24/63.5

Where partnership funding is also being sourced from external funders, the Council would wish to see that such funding has been secured prior to awarding a grant.

Retrospective applications (i.e. projects already completed) will not normally be allowed.

Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year.

### **How to Apply**

Groups must apply to the fund using the appropriate application form. This can be found on the Parish Council Website or requested by email from the clerk to the Council – [clerk@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@laughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Organisations will be required to explain the reasons for the grant with clear aims and objectives.

Groups will be expected to supply accompanying documentation –

- A copy of the most recent audited accounts, including an up to date balance sheet
- A copy of the constitution or rules of the group
- Provide proof that the group has a bank account with two signatories

### **What Amounts can be applied for**

The Grant scheme allows for applications between £10 and £500.

Existing groups applying for capital or revenue grants can only apply once per year (April to March) but may bid for a number of elements of a project in the application.

New Groups applying for start-up funding (up to £250) may also apply for capital or revenue funding within the same year (April to March).

Groups will be expected to contribute some of their own funds to the project although a set percentage has not been agreed. However, where possible a group will be expected to make some contribution from its own funds. All applications will be considered with regard to financial stability of the groups and judged on their own merits; particular attention will be given to the group clearly demonstrating the need for the project.

### **Availability of Funds**

The availability of funds to support voluntary activity is dependent on the Council's overall financial position and the choices it has to make when allocating its resources. The Council will support direct financial support in the form of grants to eligible bodies. It is not just the role of the Parish Council to award grants. Where possible it actively encourages organisations to seek grants from other agencies to finance projects.

### **When will I find out if my application is successful?**

The grant request will be considered at the Parish Council meeting following receipt of the application form, supported with the required documentation. If the grant is successful, payment of funds will be by Internet Banking direct into the account of the Applicant.

### **Hamlets**

Our Hamlet Community Groups have an earmarked grants budget allocated each year and receive priority on these funds for applications received before 31<sup>st</sup> August. After that these funds form part of our general grant allocation which Hamlet Community Groups may still apply for.