

# Laceby Parish Council



## GRANT AWARDING POLICY

### Introduction

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.

The Law requires that Section 137 grants must be 'in the interests of, or the direct benefit to the area or its inhabitants .....the direct benefit should be commensurate with expenditure'.

### Grant Applications

Laceby Parish Council values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations and will consider applications for financial assistance to groups and 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;
- Improving the environment;
- Promoting Laceby Parish Council in a positive way.

The Parish Council will not award grants to:

- Commercial organisations;
- Purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.;
- Political parties;
- National Charities or where funds can be accessed from national, umbrella or parent organisations;
- Religious organisations, unless a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated irrespective of religious belief.

This list is not exhaustive and may be added to at the discretion of the Council.

The Parish Council will consider grant applications to individuals as long as there is a clear benefit to the residents of Laceby Parish.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear need for financial support, and the Parish Council will not normally provide grants to 'plug' perceived gaps in the provision of community service.

***Grants will not be made retrospectively, and funds awarded must be used within 60 days.***

### Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the Laceby Parish Council website.

Completed applications can be returned to the Parish Council Clerk, a Councillor or submitted at a Parish Council meeting.

All grants will be subject to a regular report back to Laceby Parish Council as to the progress and the community benefit.

## **Assessment Procedure**

Any grant request received in writing up to the Wednesday the week before a council meeting will be decided upon at that meeting. If a grant is requested or received after that Wednesday, then a decision will not be made until the following months meeting. This ensures the grant request is published on the agenda for that meeting.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits. The Parish Council will assess applications on the following basis:

- How well the grant meets the needs of the community;
- How effectively the grant will use the grant;
- Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic;
- Level of contributions raised locally;
- How the group is managed;
- How the grant positively benefits the residents of this parish.

The Parish Council may make the award of any grant subject to such additional requirements and conditions it sees fit.

The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it deems to be inappropriate or against the objectives or best interest of the Parish.

Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Parish Council from exercising its existing duty or power in response of providing financial assistance or grants to local or national organisations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137.

## **Successful Applications**

A grant awarded must be used for the purposes stated during the application process. If the organisation is unable to use any or part of the grant, then all monies, or unexpended part of such monies must be returned to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council may request proof of expenditure. Failure to provide proof on request may lead to the Parish Council recovering monies.

For capital purchases the Parish Council reserves the right to buy and supply the goods rather than providing a cash payment.

Where a grant is used to buy equipment, the Parish Council requires that it be insured and maintained at the expense of the user.

Organisations receiving grants are required to advise their users/members that the grant has been received from Laceby Parish Council.

In order to promote transparency for funding we require five photographs of the supplied items being used/event taking place to be sent to us within thirty days of the event or receipt of goods. We may use these photographs on our website and social media as examples of successful applications.