

GRANTS POLICY

Purpose

Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council awards grants to organisations in order to enhance the quality of life in our community.

Where do the grants come from?

Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council has one source of income - the Precept, which is our share of local tax provides 100% of the Council's income. The Parish Council also receives Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds from the District Council in respect of approved local planning applications. These funds can only be used for infrastructure projects.

How much is available each year?

The total amount available for grants each year varies and is included in the Council's annual budget. In 2023/24 the amount available was £2,000.

Who are eligible for grants?

Most often grants are provided to voluntary organisations and charities in the parish. They are also available for specific projects supporting local community organisations which play an active role in bringing residents together. Organisations outside of the parish are eligible for grants provided that the grant benefits Chidham & Hambrook residents.

Who are not eligible?

Grants are not provided for national or international appeals or for sponsoring individuals or individual businesses.

How is a grant application assessed?

Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council considers applications at its Parish Council meetings which are held each month.

The key criteria used to assess an application are:

- Does the activity or project for which the funding is sought contribute to life in our community?
- Will our grant make a difference?
- Is the organisation likely to be able to deliver the project for which the funding is sought?
- Is the organisation financially sound and well-managed?
- Is the grant necessary or can the organisation easily fund the activity from its own reserves?
- Are we being asked to make a grant for a project or activity which should be funded by some other Statutory Authority or body?

The application form is designed to enable the Council to reach an objective view on these criteria.

What conditions apply to council grants?

Because grants are made from public money the Council needs to apply conditions to them:

- The Council will ask for an end-of-project report, describing how the project or activity has been carried out, with a financial report explaining how the grant has been used. This report will be due within 12 months of the grant being awarded.
- If the project will take longer than 12 months to complete, an interim report will be required.
- If the organisation cannot or does not use the grant for the purpose for which was awarded within 12 months (or within a longer period if the Council permits an extension) it must be returned to the Council.

Adopted at Full Council 2 November 2023