

Harescombe Parish Council

GRANT AWARDING POLICY

12th January 2026

1. Introduction

From time to time the Council receives requests for grants or donations from a variety of groups or organisations. This policy document sets out the framework in which such requests should be considered, and approved or otherwise by the Council.

2. Background and Principles

Any grants or donations approved by the Council are funded directly from the parish precept.

On occasions, the Council receives monies from other sources, with the intention that these funds should be allocated to specific projects determined by the Council. These funds are ring-fenced for that purpose and are not subject to the policy below.

3. Policy

- a) Any grant or donation approved by the Council must be of demonstrable benefit to the parish or parishioners, or support the work of the Council.
- b) The Council shall not make donations to charities or charitable groups, unless there is evidence that the parish or a proportionate number of parishioners will benefit.
- c) Grants will not be made to fund political or religious activities.
- d) The Council is generally prevented from making grants or donations towards the maintenance or improvement of Church property. However, an exception has been made for the Parish / Village Hall to recognise its use as a Community Hub.
- e) Funding of individuals will not be permitted.

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- f) The Council will determine each year the value of the budget to be made available for donations, and this shall be considered as part of the precept calculation.
- g) There shall be no obligation on the Council to disburse this amount during the year, although any unused funds shall be taken into account in determining the size of the following year's fund.
- h) The Council may, by resolution of the Full Council, re-allocate any unused part of the fund to other projects, provided these are of demonstrable benefit to the parish or parishioners, or support the work of the Council.
- i) Applications must be submitted in writing or arise as the result of some other documented event (e.g. minutes of meetings). These should include a description and costings for the project or activity for which the donation or grant is required, and confirm the funding levels already achieved and other funding options being pursued.
- j) Each application will be considered on its individual merit.
- k) All decisions by the Council will be documented in the minutes accordingly.