

Norton Lindsey Parish Council

Grants Policy

Norton Lindsey Parish Council has the power to award grants to local clubs, groups and organisations within the Parish which, in its opinion, directly benefit the Parish or residents of the Parish.

Unless a grant is awarded through a specific statutory power of the Council, the Parish Council awards grants through Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Under s. 137(1) a local council may, subject to conditions, incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants, and the direct benefit accruing will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred. It is for the council to decide whether the direct benefit is commensurate with the expenditure proposed.

The Section 137 expenditure limit for the year 2020/21 is £8.32 per parish elector.

Policy

Norton Lindsey 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 in one of the following ways:

- By providing a service to members of the Parish;
- By enhancing the quality of life for those living in the Parish;
- By improving the local environment;
- By promoting the Parish in a positive way.

The following will be considered eligible for financial aid in the form of a grant:

- Local* non-political, non-profit making groups and organisations where membership is open (ie. no discrimination of membership on grounds of sex, race, religion etc)
- Local* educational establishments (schools will only be grant aided if, in the opinion of the Parish Council, their application is for a project that would not normally be funded by the education authority)
- Local* charities, both registered and non-registered
- Local* (including regional) branches of national charities
- National Charities which in the opinion of the Council could bring benefit to residents within the Parish.

** 'local' is defined as being anywhere within the Parish of Norton Lindsey or within three miles of its boundaries*

Norton Lindsey Parish Council will NOT award grants to:

- Private individuals
- Commercial organisations
- Political parties
- Religious organisations
- Groups whose purpose is the maintenance of church property

Norton Lindsey Parish Council

Grants Policy

In addition, Norton Lindsey Parish Council will not provide grants for purposes for which there is a statutory duty upon other local or central government departments to fund or provide.

This list is not exclusive, and may be added to at the Council's discretion.

Only one application for a grant will be considered from any organisation/charity in any one financial year unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Grant applications should be received by 31 January and will be considered at the February ordinary meeting.

Ongoing commitments to award grants in future years will not be made. A fresh application will be required each year. This will be at the discretion of Norton Lindsey Parish Council.

Grants will not be made retrospectively.

Application Procedure

The Clerk will be happy to offer informal advice, without commitment, at any time.

All applications for grants must be made by completing the Grant Application Form and returning it by email to nortonlindseypc@outlook.com, or by post to Jennifer Bendall, Clerk, Norton Lindsey Parish Council, 7 Brick Kiln Close, Norton Lindsey, Warwick, CV35 8DL.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council reserves the right to return to the applicant for additional information and/or clarification where deemed appropriate.

Assessment Procedure

All grant applications will be considered at the ordinary Parish Council meeting in February.

Each application will be assessed on its own merits. However, to ensure as fair a distribution as possible of available funds, Norton Lindsey Parish Council will take into account the amount and frequency of any previous awards from this and similar organisations, and the geographical spread within the parish.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council may make the award of any grant subject to such additional conditions and requirements as it considers appropriate.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which it considers to be inappropriate, or against the objectives of the Council.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council will notify successful/unsuccessful applicants in writing.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council will notify the applicant if they have missed the 31 January deadline and will encourage them to submit a grant application in the following financial year.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council

Grants Policy

Successful Applications

Any grant must only be used for the purpose stated on the application unless the written approval of Norton Lindsey Parish Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies.

If the organisation is unable to use the grant, or any part of it, for the stated or amended purpose within 12 months from when it was awarded, then all monies, or the unexpended part of such monies must be returned to Norton Lindsey Parish Council.

Non-capital expenditure, ie. for an event or forming a new community group, must be returned to Norton Lindsey Parish Council if the event is not held or the group not formed.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council may request proof of expenditure.

Organisations receiving grants are required to advise their users/members that the grant has been received from Norton Lindsey Parish Council. Where appropriate, Norton Lindsey Parish Council may require a notice to be affixed.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council would like to be included in any publicity material.

Norton Lindsey Parish Council would like to hear back from any successful grant applications as to any progress and/or community benefit within 12 months of expenditure.