Kingskerswell Parish Council

Grant Awarding Policy

Date: 3rd March 2022
Agreed at Full Council Meeting – 30th March 2022
Reviewed May 2025

Introduction

Kingskerswell Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year to be awarded in grants to organisations for projects that will be of benefit to the residents of the Parish.

This policy document has been drawn up to demonstrate a fair and transparent process for grant awards.

The Council can only award grants using certain legal powers; specific powers allow the Council to provide funding for specific activities or projects which Members feel will be of benefit to the Kingskerswell Parish Council area e.g., grants to a sport club, for a music festival or towards community celebrations of special events such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Where no other power is available, the Council may decide to use its power under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, to award a grant where it feels that to do so will benefit some or all of its residents or some or all of the area. At the Kingskerswell Annual Parish Council Meeting on 22nd May 2023 the Parish Council confirmed that it met the criteria necessary and therefore agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence. Unlike expenditure incurred by a council under section 137 of the 1972 Act, the GPC imposes no statutory maximum limit to the level of expenditure that may be incurred by an eligible parish council. Paragraph 7 of Schedule 5 to Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 means that an eligible parish council cannot incur expenditure under section 137 except under section 137(3) to contribute to the funds of charities in furtherance of their work in the United Kingdom, not for profit bodies operating in the UK and mayoral appeals as detailed in paragraphs 11 and 12.

Applications for Grant Funding

To qualify for a grant, an organisation must first write to the Clerk.

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that any funding provided by the Parish Council will be of benefit to the parish of Kingskerswell, or its inhabitants.

The Parish Council will not normally make grants to organisations outside of the parish unless it can be demonstrated that there are direct benefits to the parish.

Applications should be for 'one-off' grants which will not result in recurring expenditure to the Parish Council.

Other factors that the Parish Council will consider when considering a grant application include:

- Whether the Parish Council has the power to make this grant.
- Whether the applicant has demonstrated some degree of fundraising on a "self-help" basis.
- Whether the applicant has applied to other bodies for funding for the same project.

Grants can only be awarded by resolution of the Full Council and are dependent on the availability of funds and the suitability of the application.

Grants will not be made retrospectively and cannot be made to individuals.

Procedure

Requests for funding must be made in writing to the Clerk either by email to info@kingskerswell-pc.gov.uk or by post to Kingskerswell Parish Council, The Pavilion, Manor Drive, Kingskerswell TQ12 5HB

The Parish Council would welcome a representative at the relevant meeting to answer any questions which may arise whilst the grant is being considered.

If successful, the grant is made in a single payment.

Details of which organisations have received a grant during the year may be included in the Finance report given at the Annual Parish Meeting each year.

Terms and conditions

The amount of the award will be at the discretion of the Parish Council.

All applications will be considered on their merits.

Grants will be awarded to voluntary groups and societies, clubs, not-for-profit organisations, charities operating in the parish where the benefit will be for this area.

Grants will not be awarded to individuals or to regional or national charities unless it is for a specific project in the parish or where there will be obvious benefit to the parish.

The purpose for which the grant is made must be in the interest of the parish or any part of it or all or some of the inhabitants of the parish. The benefit to the area or inhabitants must be commensurate with the expenditure.

Groups from outside the parish who can demonstrate direct benefit to the parish, or its inhabitants, are eligible to apply.

The Parish Council will take into account any previous grant made to an organisation or group when considering a new application.

Grants will not be awarded to or for any commercial venture for private gain.

Retrospective applications will not be funded where the expenditure has been made, the project has been carried out or the event has taken place.

All grants will be conditional upon submission of audited accounts and supporting documentation detailing costs of capital expenditure, project or events for which the funding is being sought.

If the grant is put to purposes other than those for which it was awarded without the prior approval of the Parish Council, the recipient organisation or group will be required to repay the grant to the Parish Council.

Organisations are welcome to apply for grants in subsequent financial years, regardless of the outcome of previous applications.

Any refusal of a grant application, for whatever reason, is not to be taken as a comment by the Council on the worthiness of the cause or the work of the organisation.

Assessment of applications

How well the grant will meet the needs of the community, providing positive benefit to the inhabitants.

Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic.

What level of contributions has been, or will be, raised locally.

Whether the organisation or group could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from another, perhaps more appropriate source.

Policy status and review

This policy was adopted by Kingskerswell Parish Council at a meeting of the full council on 30th March 2022. It will be reviewed periodically by Kingskerswell Parish Council. Reviewed May 2025.