

Sturton by Stow Parish Council – Grant Aid Policy

A grant is any payment made by the Parish Council to be used by an organisation for a **specific** purpose aimed at enhancing the well being of the local community, which is not directly controlled or administered by the Parish Council.

The purpose of any grant given by the Parish Council is to support initiatives of organisations in the local community and to help create opportunities for the residents of Sturton by Stow Parish that are not, as a matter of course, funded by the Parish Council.

AIMS

The council is committed to supporting organisations in Sturton by Stow Parish which further enhances the quality of life of some or all the residents of the parish.

This policy is intended to complement the current Financial Regulations of the Parish Council.

To create a framework which allows all applications to be discussed in a transparent and open manner.

To make a commitment in line with Best Practices and in the spirit of Best Value.

OBJECTIVES

To carefully consider applications and award grant aid on merit without discrimination.

To ensure the opportunity for organisations to seek grant funding is publicised at the Annual Parish Meeting, on notice boards, via the newsletter and website. Posters will be displayed in SEPTEMBER. The grants will be accepted for circulation in the OCTOBER meeting. Discussion and award of grants will be in the NOVEMBER meeting. Grants will be paid in APRIL following receipt of precept monies.

To focus on sustainability and supporting the community as a whole and/or understanding of environmental improvements.

ACTION

Applications will only be considered from organisations.

Applications will **NOT** be accepted from organisations outside the parish of Sturton by Stow.

Applications will not be considered from organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party or discriminate on grounds of age, sex, disability, race, religion or creed.

Applications will not be considered from organisations that are intended to be run as a profit making business or private enterprise.

Applications from religious groups will be considered where it can be demonstrated that there is a clear benefit to the wider community irrespective of their religious beliefs. Applications will need to demonstrate that their project meets this criterion.

Applications from education, health or social service establishments will be considered where the organisation can demonstrate that there is a clear benefit to the wider community within the parish. Applications will need to demonstrate that their project meets this criterion.

APPLICATION

The organisation will be expected to have clearly written aims and objectives. Copies **MUST** be submitted as part of the application. In addition, an organisation must demonstrate that it is properly managed and able to run its affairs responsibly.

All applications **MUST** demonstrate clearly how a grant will be of benefit to the local community within the parish.

All applications **MUST** specify exactly how additional funding has been sought-award from Parish Council not dependant on this

Applications can only be made once per year.

All applications **MUST** be submitted to the council, in person, by a representative of the organisation at the **OCTOBER** meeting of the Parish Council. Please note the financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.

All applicants **MUST** submit their application on the Sturton by Stow Grant Aid form.

All applications **MUST** have a copy of the latest financial **audited** accounts and a copy of the latest bank statement(s) attached. All additional sums awarded (from any source) after the publication of the audited accounts must be detailed. In the case of newly formed organisations, the application must be supported by a detailed budget and business plan.

All applications will become agenda items and considered on merit at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

Parish Council will consider all or part funding.

Any grant aid will have to be incorporated in the budget set annually, with due regard to the financial constraints of the precept and reserves held by the Parish Council.

The council must consider carefully whether there is an appropriate power included in legislation to cover any grant awarded.

If necessary, the council may ask a representative to attend the November meeting to discuss the application.

Any grant awarded will be paid to the organisation in April at the start of the financial year.

On completion of the project, the applicant must provide receipts of the agreed funding items. These shall be sent before the end of the financial year, otherwise funding may be requested to be returned to the Parish Council.

ALL organisations awarded grant money will be expected to attend the Annual Meeting of the parish to present a report. This will include how the grant money has been spent.

Submission of an application does not automatically mean the application (in full or part) will be successful.

Any application received without the additional required supporting documentation will not be considered.

The decision of the council is final, and no appeals will be considered.

This Grant Aid Policy will be reviewed annually.

May 2021

Reviewed May 2022

Reviewed June 2023

Reviewed May 2024

Revisited August 2024