



Oswestry Rural Parish Council

COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY

Each year Oswestry Rural Parish Council awards grants to voluntary organisations and community groups, which in the opinion of the council is in the interests of the local community.

All applications are considered on their individual merits and grants are awarded in accordance with how the council considers funding to be of benefit to the local community.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, which takes place in April each year, at which their award will be celebrated.

1. Who can apply?

Local voluntary organisations, community groups and sports/recreational clubs.

All applicants must:

- be of a non-commercial nature;
- have a constitution, set of rules or documented aims and objectives;
- have a bank account with at least two signatures.

2. How the grants can be used and how are they awarded.

Grants awarded by the council may be used for capital projects or for revenue purposes in accordance with the reasons specified in the grant application.

Applications are considered and awarded in accordance with:

- How well the grant will meet the needs of the community.
- How effectively the organisation will use the grant.
- How the organisation is managed.
- Whether the costs are appropriate and realistic.
- The level of contributions from other funders.
- Whether the organisation could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from a more appropriate source.

3. How and when should an application be made?

All grant applications should be submitted to the Clerk on the council's formal 'Grant Application Form' which is available to download from the council's website or by application to the Clerk.

Grant applicants should make every effort to attend the meeting at which their grant applications will be considered.

All applications must be received no later than 31 January for consideration by the council at its March meeting. Applications received after this date will not be considered until the following fiscal year.

4. What is required with the application form?

- A copy of the organisation's latest accounts and bank statements.
- Supporting evidence of the cost of the project (e.g. invoices or estimates).
- A copy of the minutes at which it was agreed to apply for grant aid.
- A copy of the organisation's constitution, or rules or statement of aims and objectives.

5. We will not fund:

- Applications which do not substantially benefit the local community.
- Organisations or activities which are primarily commercial in nature.
- Organisations which have a closed or restricted membership.
- Organisations that are the responsibility of another public body/agency. However, some form of matched/joint funding may be considered.
- Religious or political activities unless unrestricted community benefit can be demonstrated.
- Loan repayments.
- Retrospective applications where the activity or project has already been carried out.

6. Conditions

- Grants awarded by the council can only be used for the purposes stated in the application and the council reserves the right to reclaim any grant funding that has not been used as specified in the application.
- Organisations are responsible for ensuring that they are in compliance with all legal and statutory requirements.
- Should for any reason the organisation disbands during the period of the grant the council may request that all or part of the grant is reimbursed to the council.
- Recognition of grants awarded by the council must be acknowledged in all recipients' publicity.
- Within three months of grants awarded over £2,000 recipients must submit a report detailing how the grant was used and the impact it has made.
- Organisations may only make one application per year.
- More than one project may be included within each grant application.

Non-compliance with any of these conditions may result in the grant being withdrawn and funding reimbursed, and future grant applications being refused.

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