

North Tamerton Parish Council Community Benefit Fund – Policy

1 Receipts

1. All grants received from companies and individuals intended to be used for Community Benefit will be kept in a separate ring fenced reserve category within the normal Parish Council accounting procedures.

2 Management of Fund

1. The Community Benefit Fund will pay all administration and legal costs associated with the fund.
2. All grants will be awarded by the Parish Council.
3. Grantees are required to provide feedback and receipts.
4. The Parish Council can initiate its own projects.
5. An element of match funding should be sought wherever possible, either from the applicant's own funds or from a third party.
6. A separate annual report will be produced detailing all transactions for presentation at the Annual Parish meeting and published on the website.

3 Distribution of Grants

1. A grant is any payment made by the Council to be used by an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish. The Parish Council awards grants at its discretion, to organisations which can demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit the Parish.
2. The Council is entitled to make discretionary grants to individuals, organisations, and voluntary groups within the Community.
3. Grants can only be made for charitable purposes within the Parish.
4. Charitable purposes can include, the advancement of religion, citizenship, or community development, the arts, culture, heritage, or science, recreation, rural regeneration, voluntary work, and facilities provided in the interest of social welfare. Other charitable purposes may apply.
5. By way of example grants can be made to grass roots community voluntary groups and individuals within the Parish for the following purposes:
 - a) The promotion and installation of energy efficiency measures.
 - b) Small scale renewable energy projects.
 - c) Education and capacity building projects or other projects involving renewable energy, climate change and nature conservation.
 - d) Enhancing spaces freely accessible to the public through planting so they may create and/or deliver outcomes for the benefit of the community.
 - e) Provision of facilities at the village hall and the provision and maintenance of grounds and buildings to be used for the purposes of recreation or leisure time occupation. These purposes will be treated as priority when deciding how to allocate funds.

6. All potential grants and applications for grants will be considered on a case by case basis at the Council's discretion. The Council reserves the right to refuse grants or to prioritise certain purposes over others as it considers appropriate.
7. Grants are unlikely to be provided unless the recipient can demonstrate a clear need for financial support and, having regard to the purposes referred to above, a direct benefit to the Parish commensurate with the amount of grant.
8. Application forms are available from the Parish Council Clerk or can be downloaded from North Tamerton village website: <http://www.norhttamerton.com>
9. The applicant must supply the application and all supporting information to the Clerk at least 7 days before the Council meeting in order that the item can be added to the agenda. Applicants should attend the meeting to answer any questions.
10. Grants will not be made retrospectively unless there are extenuating circumstances.
11. Applications will not normally be considered from national organisations or local groups with access to funds from national umbrella or parent organisations, unless funds are not available from such bodies.
12. An organisation should have a bank account in it's own name, with two authorised representatives (signatories) required to sign each cheque. For other payments (such as BACS payment, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by the 2 signatories and held by the Treasurer. *Alternatively*, if the organisation has no bank account, then the Parish Council can act more directly by making an award, for example an item of qualifying equipment.
13. All awards must be properly accounted for and evidence of expenditure should be provided to the Council as requested.
14. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.
15. The Council may make the award of a grant subject to any conditions it deems appropriate. The Council reserves the right to refuse any application considered inappropriate or against the objectives of the Council.
16. Any grant must only be used for the purpose that it was awarded unless the written approval of the Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies. Any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Council within 1 year from the date it was received.
17. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Council from exercising at any time its existing power in respect of providing financial assistance or grants to local or national organisations under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.