

# **Shirland and Higham Parish Council**

## **Grant Awarding Policy 2023/24 – Amended 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

Each year Shirland and Higham Parish Council allocates an expenditure budget in order to support local groups and organisations. Up until August 2023 these grants have been made in accordance with powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. On the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 the Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence and will now use this power to allocate grants.

The Parish Council wishes to support activities and causes which benefit the parish of Shirland and Higham and the well-being of its community.

A grant is any payment made by the Parish Council for the specific purpose for which it is claimed. The Parish Council accepts applications at any time of the year.

### **Eligibility**

Any grant made by the Parish Council must directly benefit some or all of the residents of the parish of Shirland and Higham and so will normally be sought by a group from the community rather than one individual.

The following criteria must be met for a group to be considered a grant:

- The group must be a charity, voluntary or community organisation;
- The group must be able to demonstrate that any funding from the Parish Council will directly benefit the residents of the Parish of Shirland and Higham.

Businesses, religious groups or political parties are not eligible for grant funding.

### **Conditions**

- No single grant shall exceed £300;
- All applications shall be subject to review by the Parish Council at a meeting before any decision is made;
- Applicants should not consider that their application will be approved until such time as the Parish Council has fully considered their application and notified them of the outcome;
- Multiple applications within a 12-month period will not normally be considered from a group however applications from sub-groups will be considered providing that the income/expenditure of the sub group is listed separately in the accounts of the main group;
- Proper evidence of actual expenditure or projected costings must be supplied.
- The group must be constituted.

### **Application Process**

- Applications should be made on the Parish Council's Grant Application Form enclosing a copy of appropriate accounts, along with any other supporting financial information;
- Applicants should be prepared to supply any additional information which the Clerk or Parish Council consider necessary to complete their review and make their final decision;
- Applicants will usually be informed within two weeks of the meeting of the Parish Council at which their application is considered.

### **Promotion**

The Parish Council welcome any community groups to attend the Annual Parish meeting to provide a report on their activities during the year or speak about the use of their grant funding.

Adopted: September 2023

For review: September 2024