

# Killamarsh Parish Council

## KPC 50 – Grants or Donations to Organisations

DETAILS OF POLICY	
Policy No	KPC 50
Policy Title	Grants & Donations to Organisations
Committee/Working Party Responsible	Finance / Full Council
Last Reviewed	April 2024
Next Review Date	March 2026

### The Policy

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Killamarsh Parish Council has a commitment to encourage, support and promote volunteer organisations and charities within Killamarsh for the benefit of the village. The Parish Council makes an annual budget provision for Community Grants to help meet its aims.

Community grants come from taxpayer funds and a key principle of the policy is to ensure that grant expenditure is open and transparent.

#### 2. GENERAL NOTES

For the purposes of this policy, donations and grants differ only in that a donation is given without the need to be specific about how it is used, whereas a grant must be spent specifically for the purpose agreed. For example, a donation may be given to a village hall towards the general running costs without being specific about what it is spent on, whereas a grant would be given towards the cost of specific project such as installation of a new security system.

Most applications under this policy will be defined as a grant and be subject to the following considerations.

The parish council's aim is to ensure that all our award-making activity is:

- \*\*Open
- \*\*Transparent
- \*\*Fair
- \*\*Competitive
- \*\*Supports local organisations

Our awards are open to established voluntary or community groups, as well as new or informal groups of parishioners who are or intend by the date of application to become formally constituted.

### **3. PARISH COUNCIL POWERS and SECTION 137**

A parish council has a number of powers granted under various Acts of Parliament which enable it to spend money. Since 2008 the “Power of Wellbeing” and more recently the “General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011” allow parish councils more flexibility in how they spend money within the local community. In order to use either of these powers it is necessary that the council has a qualified Clerk/Proper Officer, and at least two thirds of its Councillors have been elected rather than co-opted or appointed. Currently Killamarsh Parish Council does meet these criteria.

Should there be a point when the Parish Council no longer meets the criteria, all donations and grants will then fall under the statutory power of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which permits it to spend up to a certain limit on anything which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of the parish, or any part of it, or is in the interest of all or some of its inhabitants.

This amount is limited to a figure per head of the electorate on the electoral role on 1st January before the commencement of the financial year. The figure is given to the Council, via the Clerk/Proper Officer on an annual basis.

The parish council has no obligation to spend all or any of the money available under S.137. This money is not ‘gifted’ to the parish council; it forms part of the Precept which the parish council makes on the District Council. The cost of any grants or donations is therefore reflected in residents’ council tax bills.

### **4. WHO CAN APPLY?**

To be eligible for the award of a grant under Section 137 an organisation must:

- be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational, or philanthropic purposes,
- have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives and operational procedures,
- be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and/or most recent bank statement. Accounts are to be checked and signed by a person independent of the group,
- have a bank account operated by a minimum of at least two joint signatories.

### **5. WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?**

- the project should be something that makes the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit
- it should benefit people who live in the parish
- there must be clear evidence that local people support the project and are involved in carrying it out

- applications do not have to be from groups that already exist
- each group may only make one application per financial year
- applications will be considered for day-to-day running costs and individual projects

## **6. THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE**

- Support for individuals or private business projects.
- Projects that are the prime responsibility of other statutory authorities.
- Projects that improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
- Projects that have already been completed or will have been by the time the grant is made.

## **7. CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT**

The council may make the award of any grant subject to all or some of the following conditions. Required conditions will be at the discretion of the council and take into account your organisation's individual circumstances.

- The application must be made using the official Killamarsh Parish Council application form which is available from the Parish Office or the Parish Council website at [www.killamarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.killamarsh-pc.gov.uk)
- Where expenditure on a specific project exceeds £2,000 quotes from at least three providers must have been received, where external contractors are to be used to carry out the work.
- A detailed breakdown of the cost of the project should be provided with each application.
- Details must be provided of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities.
- Funding must only be used for the purpose agreed with the Parish Council and if the monies are not spent on the items agreed, they must be returned.
- Funding must be spent within the financial year awarded and cannot be added wholly or partly to your reserves.
- If your project costs are more than you anticipated on your application, any shortfall must be met by you – Killamarsh Parish Council will not make up any shortfall.
- To fully understand your project or activity the Parish Councillors may wish to visit your project or activity, prior to the project or activity commencing. They may also wish to conduct a site visit once your funded project is underway.
- The need to provide evidence of expenditure (receipts/receipted invoices) to the Clerk/Proper Officer to the Council on completion of your project will be discretionary – based on the amount given and the purposes given. (If required, this evidence of expenditure should be equal to, or more than, the total of the amount of the grant detailed on your application.)
- Any unused funds at the end of the financial year in which the grant is paid out must be returned to Killamarsh Parish Council.
- You must acknowledge Killamarsh Parish Council's support in all publications, publicity, and annual reports.
- You should show the funding awarded separately in your published financial accounts

and Killamarsh Parish Council should have access to your financial records, on request, where appropriate.

- A representative of your organisation must give a report at the Annual Parish Meeting (held on an evening between March and May each year) on how you spent the money and if appropriate how your project went.

## **8. WHEN TO APPLY**

The parish council prepares its annual budget during November/December each year. The Parish Council have agreed a figure of £5,000 to be included in the 2023/24 budget and will award up to 10 grants up to a maximum of £500, or less should the organisation require an amount less than £500. Organisations can write/apply only during the months of April and October in time to be considered for a grant. Any award granted would become available for payment around May and November of the same financial year.

This is a competitive process against other bids and the quality of each bid is important. All groups will be treated equally. If an organisation has had a grant previously, they are not guaranteed to receive financial support again but are not excluded from applying again. A fresh application will be required each time.

Ad-hoc requests can be made during other months. However, there is no guarantee that any funds will remain available.

## **9. HOW WILL DECISIONS BE MADE?**

All bids will be judged after the closing date on the last day of April and October each year. The applications will be reviewed, and recommendations will be made by a committee of 3 Parish Councillors, to the full Council. Full Council will vote, and their decision is final. Unfortunately, we may not be able to fund all projects as there may be more applications than there is money available. However, all applications will be considered carefully. Due account will be taken of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or own fund-raising activities.

## **10. HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should be made in writing. Please apply to the Parish Office for a standard application form or download one from the parish council website at [www.killamarsh-pc.gov.uk](http://www.killamarsh-pc.gov.uk).