

INKPEN PARISH COUNCIL

Section 137 – Grant Funding

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 is a statutory power. It must be used for the benefit of inhabitants within the Parish, not an individual, nor can it be made retrospectively. The Parish Council is allowed to make grants available to charitable bodies, groups and organisations, which provide a direct public service or benefit for local residents – i.e for organisations not for profit or gain.

Eligibility:

- Applications must be submitted from recognised ‘not for profit’ organisations or community groups and clear evidence that local people support the application. Applications need to be signed by a responsible person with authority.
- Applications cannot be considered from individuals.
- The Council can consider small scale capital expenditure such as the purchase of special equipment.
- Only one grant can be awarded to an organisation in any one year unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Procedure:

- At an agreed time of the year (normally in the second half of the year) the Council will publicise its intention to make available an amount of money for the benefit of the community organisations. Applications for grants should be sent to the Clerk directly – applications sent to members of the Council will not be considered. The closing date will be advertised – applications after the closing date will not be considered.
- Successful applications will be notified in writing – and cheques should be presented before the end of the financial year.
- Grants are dependent on funds being available.

Submitting Applications:

- Applications must be submitted on the Council application form. Other formats will not be accepted.
- All applications must be accompanied with an up to date set of accounts and the organisations current constitution or rules. Copies of bank statements could be requested.
- If organisations hold a large reserve they need to show why this cannot be used.
- The grant application should outline the benefit accruing to the community prior to the award of funding. Consideration to be given to whether the applicant has demonstrated ‘self funding’ or if they have applied for a grant with another body.

After Receipt of the Award:

- The Parish Council would expect to be included in any publicity material and the organisation should expect to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Evidence of the purchase or benefit to the community could be requested at any time.