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# Council Policy

## Grants

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Subject to funding being available, Tollerton Parish Council is committed to providing assistance and support to local community groups which are set up to promote village life for Tollerton residents. The Council's financial support is provided by way of Grants which are decided against criteria set by, and which can be amended from time to time by the Parish Council.

### Policy

1. Tollerton Parish Council is funded by the residents of Tollerton and will make a limited amount of funds available to assist community organisations where appropriate within the constraints of the parish council budget and medium term financial strategy.
2. In making funding available the purpose of the Parish Council's policy on grants will be to enable local community organisations to deliver local projects and activities to the residents of the Parish that further the priorities that they have established as set out in the Tollerton Community Plan.
3. The following principles will apply:
  - Assistance will be given on the basis of need, merit and contribution to the local community.
  - Applicants must clearly show how any assistance given will benefit the people living in the Parish and will further the priorities of the Tollerton Community Plan or the Tollerton Community Trust.
  - Any assistance given may be subject to on-going monitoring and subsequent evaluation of the outcome of the grant.
  - Organisations should not make a presumption that funding will continue on a year to year basis.
4. Requests for grant funding must be made in accordance with any guidance, procedure and forms issued by the Parish Council. Applications will only be considered from a charity, community group or local organisation with a constitution (or set of rules that define its aims, objectives and procedures) and dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community.

*(The Parish Council can only award grants using certain legal powers. Where there is no statutory power the Parish, Council may use Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to give grants to community organisations. This power may only be used if its use will benefit some or all its residents or some or all of the area and where the benefits obtained are commensurate with expenditure incurred. Grants cannot be given to individuals.)*

5. Requests for grant funding will be assessed against a set of criteria including:
  - a. Does the Council have a power to make the grant?
  - b. Does the application further the objectives and priorities of the parish plan, such as;
    - To enable local people to participate in voluntary groups and activities
    - To help the parishes' voluntary groups to improve their effectiveness.
    - To ensure the provision of services, needed by the residents, via the voluntary sector.
    - To improve or enhance the training and support for volunteers.
  - c. Are the outcomes sought realistic and achievable?
  - d. Does the application provide value?

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6. The acceptance of a grant will be subject to conditions set by the parish council including
- a. The grant can only be used for the purpose stated in the application and the Council reserves the right to reclaim any grant not being used for the specified purpose of the application. However, if a group wishes to change the purpose of the grant they must seek approval by writing to the Council who will consider whether or not to approve the change.
  - b. The organisation must be either non-profit or charitable. Applications will not be considered from individuals, private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
  - c. Applications for projects where the work has already been completed or for retrospective funding will not be considered.
  - d. We will not support grants for the repayment of loans or cost of services, equipment or provisions in anticipation of a grant.
  - e. Unless otherwise agreed grants must be spent within 1 year of award. Any unspent monies left after this time must be returned. Should for any reason the organisation disband or the project is not completed the Council may ask for all or part of the monies to be paid back.
  - f. Recipients are responsible for ensuring that they are in compliance with all applicable legal and statutory requirements (including those relating to planning permission, health and safety and equalities).
  - g. The grant must not be used to support activity or spending that is contrary or undermines any of the Council's policies or the Tollerton Community Plan,
  - h. Acknowledgement of the financial support received from the Council is required on documentation and any promotional material, including websites.
  - i. In order to receive payment organisations/group must have a bank account into which grants can be paid; payments will not be made to private individuals.
  - j. Additional grant conditions may also be attached to any funding from Tollerton Parish Council and these will be set out in the award confirmation letter. Failure to comply with any conditions attached to a grant may result in the grant being repaid or affect future grant assistance.