

SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

GRANTS POLICY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 South Stoke Parish Council has a limited budget for the award of grants. The Council can only award grants using certain legal powers and must be confident that any grant awarded will directly benefit those who live or work in South Stoke.
- 1.2 Grants will be considered as and when they are received by the Parish Council Clerk and must meet the Council's grant criteria set out below.
- 1.3 This policy sets out the general principles and approach that the Parish Council will follow in respect of grants in the Parish.

2 Grant philosophy

- 2.1 The Council is aware that it does not have the financial resource to fund every request, and must often make difficult decisions as to which projects and organisations to prioritise to provide grant funding.
- 2.2 Rather than provide a large number of small grants across a wider number of projects and organisations, in order to have the greatest impact in the South Stoke Parish, the Council will choose fewer projects and provide larger grants.

2 Grant requests

- 2.1 All grant requests must be made in writing and submitted to the Clerk. This can be by post, or by e-mail.
- 2.2 The request must clearly indicate the purpose of the grant, details of the organisation or group, other sources of funding for the group or project, the amount requested, and how that grant will specifically benefit those who live or work in South Stoke. If all information is not provided, the request will be rejected by the Clerk, though the request can be resubmitted with all the necessary information.
- 2.3 When the Parish Council Clerk determines the request meets the grant criteria, the Clerk will then present the qualifying grant request for consideration at a full Parish Council meeting.

3 Grant assessment

- 3.1 All applications will be considered on their merits, but in general grants will be awarded for projects, such as the purchase of equipment, works to community buildings, improvements to premises. In addition, the Council may support a community event, festival or other special event. Grants towards running costs, salaries or consumables, may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.2 Grants will be awarded to voluntary groups and societies, clubs, not-for-profit organisations, service or charities operating in the South Stoke Parish area where the benefit will be specifically for this area. This list is not exclusive, and may be added to at the Council's discretion.
- 3.3 The Council will determine the request by considering
 - 3.3.1 How well the grant will meet the needs of the community, providing positive, impactful benefit to those who live and work in the Parish.
 - 3.3.2 How effectively the group will use the grant.
 - 3.3.3 Whether costs are appropriate and realistic.
 - 3.3.4 What the level of contributions has been, or will be, raised and supported locally
 - 3.3.5 Whether the organisation or group could reasonably have been expected to obtain sufficient funding from another, perhaps more appropriate source.
- 3.4 The Parish Council will take into account any previous grant made to an organisation or group when considering a new application.
- 3.5 No grant will be awarded to or for any commercial venture or for private gain.
- 3.6 Retrospective applications will not be funded where the expenditure has been made, the project has been carried out or the event has taken place.
- 3.7 Grants will not be awarded to individuals or to regional or national charities unless it is for a specific project in the Parish or where there will be obvious, specific benefit to the Council's area. Groups from outside the Parish who can demonstrate direct benefit to the area may request a grant, though priority will be given to local groups and organisations.

4 Decisions

- 4.1 All grants and their amounts are awarded at the Parish Council's discretion. South Stoke Parish Council's decision is final and there is no right of appeal.
- 4.2 With the exception of the South Stoke Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity who may submit multiple requests for various projects and needs, only one request for a grant will be considered from any other group or organisation in any 12 month period.

5 Review of the policy

- 5.1 This policy was last reviewed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 29 October 2018 and will be reviewed annually.