

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL Grant Awarding Policy

RATIONALE

1. Longhope parish council are receiving an increasing number of requests for funds from local, regional and even national organisations
2. As a result, the parish council has decided to set a formal policy for awarding grants that is transparent to local residents and organisations alike

LEGAL BASIS

3. The principal authority for awarding grants is Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows parish councils to spend money which will bring direct benefit to their area, or part of their area, or to all or some of its inhabitants
4. The amount of money involved must be commensurate with the degree of local benefit, and the annual total cannot exceed more than a certain figure for each of the local population
5. For the financial year 2017/8 this figure was £7.57, which with a parish population at the last census of 1,489 means the most that could be spent in that year would be £11,271.73 (over half the current parish precept).

TIMING

6. The parish council will set a grants budget in January of each year, and so grant requests will be encouraged in November of each year in advance of budget setting, and in June when the financial year is under way

PRIORITIES

7. In line with the statutory guidelines, priority for grants will be given to:
 - Longhope organisations whose activities benefit the parish
 - Forest of Dean organisations whose activities benefit Longhope parishioners
 - Gloucestershire organisations whose activities benefit Longhope parishioners

8. Consideration will be given to:

- The number of local parishioners that may benefit
- The ability of the organisations in question to reach parishioners
- The degree to which similar benefits have been requested or are clearly needed by local parishioners

9. Grants will not normally exceed £200

10. In no circumstances will grants be made to individuals

SPECIAL CASES

11. The parish council has other funding authorities, for example to support cemeteries, community buses, footpaths, parking spaces, public toilets, village halls and war memorials. Grant requests under such headings will be considered on their own merits with advice from the parish clerk

PROCESS FOR APPLICATIONS

12. Requests for grant must be made in writing to:

Parish Clerk
Longhope Parish Council
17 High Street
Mitcheldean
Glos.
GL17 0AT