

OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Policy

Aim of the Grant Policy

Old Marston Parish Council aims to use a process of awarding grants to charities and community groups acting on a voluntary basis to help engender engagement with the Parish Council and within the wider community. It will be funded by an annual allocation that will maintain the fund at approximately 5% of the Parish's precept.

Objectives of the Grant Policy

1. To encourage the formation of new groups and particularly youth groups with a common purpose to provide new and enhanced facilities within the Parish or for use by those living within the parish.
2. To help build a commitment by all residents to a strong community that takes a pride in the Parish.
3. To widen the involvement of groups within the Parish to improve the well-being of the whole community.
4. To encourage the involvement of younger members of the community in developing community-based projects.
5. To provide start-up funds that allow new ideas and innovative solutions to be publicised and community support evaluated.

Grant Awarding Procedure

Grant applications will be assessed by the Parish Council at the first Parish Council meeting after submission that it can appear on the agenda. Applications are expected to attend the meetings and give a short presentation, about 10 minutes long, describing the purpose of the grant and its expected outcomes, how the grant would deliver value for money for the Parish Council and what other funding has been raised or may be available.

Normally, not more than two thirds of the annual grant budget will be allocated during the first half of the financial year.

Application for a grant will only be considered if it is made on the Parish Council application form. Application forms are available via email request to the Parish Clerk, clerk@oldmarston-pc.gov.uk at any time or in hard copy via letter to the Parish Clerk, Old Marston Parish Council, 8 Nicholas Avenue, Old Marston, Oxford OX3 0RN.

The Parish Council will minute its decisions, which will be based on this policy, and these will be published on the Parish Council website and on Parish Council Noticeboards as part of the Parish Council minutes.

The Parish Council reserve the right to award a single, multiple, or part funded grant or none at all where it feels that the bids do not meet the aims of the Grants Policy. For those applications that are unsuccessful feedback on the reasons will be available from the Clerk.

The Grants Procedure will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the grants awarded are achieving the aims of this Policy and directly supporting delivery of the Parish Plan. The grants awarded will also be subject to the Parish Council's annual audit process to confirm value for money.

Assessment Criteria

Preference will be given to projects:

- With evidence of community support (letters of support from established groups and/or individuals, petitions signed by local residents, etc.) or as start-up grants to evaluate that support,
- Submitted by youth groups,
- Supporting vulnerable groups,
- Projects where the Parish Council's award will help to secure further funding.

These are the criteria, not in any particular order, against which applications will be judged.

It is a condition of the award of a grant that a presentation of the project outcomes will be made at the next Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Application Form

The application form is given in Appendix 1.

Advice on completion of the application form is available from the Parish Clerk.

Application forms must be completed, signed, accompanied by accounts where stipulated and received by noon on the last day of March, for consideration at the April meeting, or last day of September for consideration at the October meeting.

Grant Award Agreement

To receive a grant, once awarded a representative of the successful group applying must sign a Grant Award Agreement from the Parish Clerk. The agreement will specify the amount award, when and how it can be claimed, any special conditions applied and use the application form to describe the project. Signing the agreement indicates that the terms and conditions of the Parish Council's Grant Policy current at the time of signing are accepted.

Monitoring

Each successful applicant will be allocated to a Parish Councillor who will follow the progress of the grant and keep the Parish Council updated.

In some instances, the nominated Parish Councillor may be asked to approve specific expenditure where the aware is held by the Parish Clerk.

All successful applicants will be asked to provide a final report and presentation of outcomes to the next Annual Parish Meeting. Occasionally, successful applicants may also be asked to provide interim reports to the Parish Clerk for the Parish Council Meetings both this requirement if applied will be stipulated in the Grant Award Agreement.

All expenditure against the grant must be receipted and accounted for and will be subject to audit through the Parish Council.

Any grant funding not spent must be accounted for and the Parish Clerk advised at the earliest opportunity. The Parish Council will take the decision if this is to be repaid or remain with the project.

Publicity

The Parish Council should be acknowledged for grant funding in all media releases relating to the project.

All media requests for Parish Council comment relating to the project should be made to the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

This policy was adopted by Old Marston Parish Council on 7th June 2021.