



NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Policy

Nether Stowey Parish Council recognises the importance of supporting groups, organisations and charities that benefit the local community, and that making grants is a valuable method of support. The Parish Council has statutory powers which enable it to make funds available to local organisations for the overall benefit of the parish. 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.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that the Parish Council has an open, consistent and easily-understood approach to awarding grants. The total figure available for grant aid will be agreed by the Council as part of its budget each financial year. Applications must satisfy the following conditions:

1. To be eligible for a grant from Nether Stowey Parish Council, the Parish Council will consider applications from groups and organisations which are operating within the Parish. The purpose for which the grant is made must show a clear benefit to the people of the Parish. These may include any non-profit-making organisations, charities and other village groups.
2. The Council will NOT consider applications from
 - individuals;
 - organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party or to discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.
 - private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.
 - local groups whose fund raising is sent to a central HQ for redistribution.
 - national Charities or organisations unless funds are to be used solely for projects in Nether Stowey or can demonstrate direct benefit to the area and the residents of Nether Stowey.
 - religious groups except where a clear benefit to the wider community can be demonstrated. Compliance with this requirement will need to be demonstrated throughout the project
3. All applications will be considered on their merits but in general, grants will be awarded for specific projects or events. The Council will not generally give grants towards running costs other than specific Maintenance Grants to the Village Hall and Playing Field Committees, which the Parish Council recognise as having a general particular benefit to the community.
4. Applicants should submit their applications on the Parish Council application form, which can be obtained from the Clerk at the Parish Office. Grant applications cannot be made retrospectively. Applications for grants of up to £150 may be made by letter, confirming the amount required and the purpose for which the grant is requested.



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5. Application forms should generally be submitted by 1 December for grants the following financial year to allow the consideration by the Parish Council when preparing the budget. The Parish Council will consider applications for grants under £150 at any time during the financial year, in respect of specific need or projects, subject to the availability of funds and the merits of the case being made.
6. All grant payments will be conditional upon submission of the previous year's accounts, current year's balance sheet and supporting documentation and/or estimates detailing costs of expenditure for projects or event for which the funding is being sought. Applicants with considerable reserves may not receive a grant unless they can show that there is a positive reason for holding a large amount of funds.
7. New groups that do not have a set of accounts can still apply, but they must show how they will benefit the Parish, and they must send in a brief explanation of how they expect to fund their organisation or group, and any other financial arrangements they plan to make.
8. Applicant should provide details of other sources of funding such as grants applied for/obtained as well as their own fund-raising efforts. Account will be taken of the amount and frequency of previous awards and of the extent to which funding has been sought or secured from other sources or from the organisation's own fund-raising activities.
9. The Parish Council reserves the right to request any further information that it deems necessary to assist the decision-making process, and/or to request a representative to attend a Parish Council meeting to answer any questions Councillors may have.
10. The size of any grant awarded is at the sole discretion of Nether Stowey Parish Council, and may not be for the full amount requested. The award of any grant or subsidy may be subject to such additional conditions and requirements, as the Parish Council considers appropriate.
11. Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the Parish Council's support in any publicity relating the event or project for which the Grant is awarded and to provide the Parish Council with a brief report including photos (where appropriate) for inclusion in the Parish Council's Annual Report, newsletter and/or website.
12. Grants must be spent by the end of the financial year (31 March) in which the grant is awarded (unless specifically agreed with the Parish Council).
13. Grants must be used only for the purpose for which it was awarded. The organisation will be required to repay the grant if the grant is used for other purposes without the prior written approval of the Parish Council. Parish Council will withdraw the offer of a grant (or require repayment if the Grant has been paid) if the event or project does not take place.