

NORTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHARITY POLICY

Policy on Requests for Charitable or Other Financial Donations

1. Introduction

1.1 North Marston Parish Council regularly receives requests for donations from a variety of organisations. This Policy provides clear guidance for applicants seeking donations or grant support and serves as a framework for councillors when considering requests. It also helps explain reasons for declining requests.

2. Definitions

2.1 Power

The Parish Council is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, which permits spending on purposes that “*will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants.*”

2.2 Grant vs Donation

- A **grant** is awarded for a specific, defined purpose.
 - A **donation** is awarded for general purposes.
 - Both are intended for activities benefiting the local parish community only.
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3. Policy / Conditions of Donations and Grants

3.1 This power is generally used to provide funding to local, not-for-profit community groups.

3.2 Grants or donations **cannot** be made to individuals for personal use, regardless of the merit of the cause (e.g., personal study or travel sponsorship).

3.3 The Parish Council runs an annual *Small Grants Awards Scheme*. Each year, a set amount of money is included in the budget to help not-for-profit community groups whose work benefits the residents of North Marston.

Community groups can also apply for a grant at other times during the year. However, these applications will only be considered if there is money left in the budget and if the request meets the Council’s funding criteria.

3.4 Any expenditure under Section 137 must be properly authorised by resolution, minuted, and recorded in a separate column in the Council’s accounts.

3.5 All requests must promote the wellbeing of parish residents or support the parish infrastructure.

4. Application Requirements

4.1 Applications must provide:

- (a) The name of the organisation applying
- (b) The name of the person applying within the organisation
- (c) What the funding would be used for
- (d) Why funding is needed e.g. insufficient income from subscriptions or reserves held)
- (e) How much your organisation is applying for
- (f) Whether or not your organisation is able to put some money from its own reserves towards the purchase/project

If funding is to purchase equipment, for example, please supply/attach information about what would be purchased from an online or other catalogue with the cost.

Please note that an application does not guarantee funding, nor the full amount requested. All applications will be considered on their own merit. The Parish Council would prefer more than one organisation to benefit from the funds available, usually £1k in total. Also, larger projects with high and/or ongoing costs may not be considered suitable for small grant funding.

4.2 Requests **will not** be considered from:

- Individuals
- Non-charitable bodies outside the Parish
- Activities unrelated to the Parish

4.3 Requests **from charitable bodies** will be declined if the Council believes there is no reasonable expectation of benefit to the Parish within the next 12 months.

4.4 Requests from organisations outside the UK will only be considered if the service provided significantly benefits the Parish or its residents.

4.5 The Parish Council does **not** commit to ongoing support. No donation or series of donations should be interpreted as a guarantee of future funding.

4.6 The requested sum should be proportional to the benefit obtained by the Parish. Organisations for which activity in the Parish represents a small part of their overall work (e.g., national charities) will generally receive smaller donations than organisations primarily focused on local residents (e.g., local village charities).

4.7 Eligible organisations should submit applications in writing to the Clerk of the Council at **northmarston@gmail.com** for consideration when the schemes dates have been announced and applications invited.

4.8 The decision of the Council is final.

Updated: September 2025

Date of review: May 2026