Fernhurst Parish Council
2026 GRANT AWARDING POLICY

1. **Introduction**

Fernhurst Parish Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and organisations. The Council has a policy for making grants to groups and organisations which contribute to the welfare of the community by improving or supporting facilities and/or activities. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear need for financial support.

2. **Guidelines**

The Council will not normally support commercial organisations, major charities, bodies considered to be self-funded or provided for by other authorities except that grants may be provided for additional projects/activities not supported by mainstream funding.

The total amount of grants to be awarded by the Council will be determined as part of the budget setting process. For the 2026/2027 financial year the budgeted total amount of grants to be awarded is £12,000.

Applications should be submitted to the Clerk (for details see application form) by the 1st of December, so that they can be reviewed and any requested additional information provided a full week before the January 2027 Council meeting. For grant awards in excess of £5,000 applications MUST be submitted by 1st October and will be considered for payment at the beginning of the next financial year. A grant may be awarded outside this grant timetable at the discretion of the Council.

Grant applications are assessed on a first come, first served basis.

Only applications which have been submitted using the correct form (Grant Application Form 2026) and supported with satisfactory financial information will be considered:

- Applicants are required to provide details of the project/running costs to be funded by the grant and the number of Fernhurst Parish residents expected to benefit.
- The proposal should be specific so there is no doubt what the grant will finance.
- For projects which will benefit the wider area the applicant should be able to demonstrate that there will be a benefit for Fernhurst Parish residents and that this will be the major part of the project being funded by the grant.
- Applicants must submit a copy of their most recent accounts or financial statements.
- For grants in excess of £750 quotes or benchmarked costings should also be provided.
- Applicants should list other sources of funding which have been approached and the amount of grant received from those sources.
- The Council may request additional information at its discretion.

Grants will not routinely exceed 50% of the cost of the project or activity.

Following an award, the receiving organisation must provide a report on how the money has been spent within 12 months of the grant being paid. Any unspent money must be returned to the Council. As a condition of receiving a grant, the receiving organisation will also be required to acknowledge the Council's support in publicity material.

The Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application, or offer an alternative amount to that originally requested.

The Council's decision is final and the Council reserves the right to offer no reason for its refusal.

Adopted 16 September 2026