



SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL - GRANTS AWARDING POLICY 2024

The Parish Council has a scheme for the award of grants up to £500 for groups based in or bringing direct benefit to Silkstone or Silkstone Common.

Guidelines for Grant Applications

1. It is a condition of any grant application that the group or project must bring direct benefit to some or all of the residents of Silkstone and/or Silkstone Common (Local Government Act s.137).
2. The grant year runs from 1st April – 31st March. Grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis from 1st April and may be approved in principle by the Parish Council at their monthly meetings. Grants can be applied for at any time of year; however, the maximum total grant allowance to any one group during the year will be £500. The size of any grant awarded is at the discretion of the Parish Council.
3. Grant applications made after the last meeting of the Council in March prior to the end of the Financial Year may be considered by the Finance Committee of the Council under delegation.
4. In exceptional cases a further grant over the £500 may be approved after a full meeting of the Parish Council.
5. No grant payment will be made until a receipt or invoice is received by the Clerk for the expense. A grant claim form must be completed by the applicant and sent to the Clerk with the copy of the quotation or estimate.
6. In exceptional circumstances where the organisation has insufficient funds, the Parish Council can pay in advance.
7. The Parish Council will grant aid to churches for parish clocks (Parish Council's Act 1957 s.2) and possibly for environmental purposes. Church Halls can also be grant aided if they are used by the community (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19).

Following the 'Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023' amending the Local Government Act 1894 at S.19A the Council now has power to fund church repairs or improvements, or property held for an ecclesiastical charity in accordance with statute.

8. Schools will only be grant aided for environmental purposes or, if in the opinion of the Parish Council their application is for the benefit of the wider community (Local Government Act s.137).
9. Grant applications cannot normally be made retrospectively, except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Parish Council.
10. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any grant application which they consider to be inappropriate, not in the public interest or against the objectives of the Parish Council
11. Any grant must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded unless the approval of Council has been obtained for a change in use of the grant monies; any unspent portion of the grant must be returned to the Parish Council by the end of the financial year in which it was awarded.