



Swallowcliffe Parish Council

Grant awarding policy

Our objectives

Swallowcliffe Parish Council grant awarding policy is aimed at supporting initiatives which help and improve the village and/or inhabitants.

Items which we might support include (but are not limited to):

- Charities
- Engagement of contractors
- Insurance
- Refreshments
- Tools and equipment purchase or hire
- Training
- Venue hire

Items which we will not support (E.G. for legal reasons) include:

- Political parties or funding, lobby groups, partisan events, ...
- Projects with no benefit to the parish
- Religious worship or denominational instruction
- Retrospective grants

Grant values are subjects to limits:

- Minimum: £10
- Maximum: £500

Basis

Swallowcliffe Parish Council can make awards of grants only in accordance with legislation.

The Local Government Act 1972, Section 142 ([link](#))

This act gives the council power to fund or support the provision of information services (about the council and its services). This includes lectures, films, and displays.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972, Section 19 ([link](#))

This act gives the council power to fund or support recreational and ancillary facilities, including training.

The Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 ([link](#))

This mechanism can only be used when there is no other explicit power (E.G. the other acts listed above).

The act gives the council power to incur expenditure for the direct benefit of the area or its inhabitants so long as the benefit is commensurate with the cost. This includes supporting charitable bodies.

The amount the council can spend per year is capped. This limit is set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government at a value per elector. For example, for

2026-27 it was set at £11.60. Swallowcliffe has 168 electors giving us an s137 expenditure limit of £1948.8 in that year.

Localism Act 2011, General Power of Competence (GPC) ([link](#))

This act would give the council 'power to do anything that individuals generally may do'.

Unfortunately, Swallowcliffe Parish Council does not currently satisfy the criteria needed to have this power.

Process

The grant application process is as follows:

1. Apply for a grant; send a letter or email to the clerk (clerk@swallowcliffeparishcouncil.gov.uk) or to a councillor detailing the amount requested, payable to whom, the purpose, and timescales.
2. The clerk will check eligibility and/or may ask for more information.
3. An agenda item will be added to the next scheduled council meeting. These take place about every four months; the dates are published on the web site (<http://www.swallowcliffeparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings.php>), and the notice boards.
4. At the start of the meeting, before the council session starts proper, there is opportunity for you to speak in support of your claim if you wish to do so (you are not permitted to speak during the council meeting itself).
5. The council will debate and reach a decision or ask for more information.
6. If successful, the clerk will provide a cheque to the payee in (1) above within two weeks.

Review

Policy version

Review date:

Approved by:

Date adopted: