

Loppington Parish Council

Community Benefit Fund

Applicant: Loppington Village Hall Committee

Committee Date: 11th July 2023

In accordance with s139 Local Government Act 1972 Loppington Parish Council (the Council) is in receipt of funding to be applied to Community Projects for the benefit of the communities of the Parish and which has been approved by a meeting of the Parish Councillors prior to the allocation of any payment (the Approved Projects).

Recommendation

That the Council consider the application received, and in accordance with the Council's Grants Policy, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders award funding to the Applicant and the Project(s) provided that members consider it to be a commensurate benefit to the residents of the Parish

1. Small Grants – up to £250

In accordance with the Council's Grants Policy the Council may allocate Community Benefit Fund annually to small projects or single community events.

Intermediary Grants – up to £1,000

In accordance with the Council's Grants Policy the Council may allocate Community Benefit Fund annually to clearly defined or ongoing Community Projects

Major Grants (over £1,000)

In accordance with the Council's Grants Policy the Council may award grants to charities, clubs or societies to help with the cost of clearly defined or ongoing Community Projects.

2. To allow the Parish Council to consider this request:

a) In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations and Grant Policy, the application to be supported by 3 quotes/estimates and a copy of the Village Hall's most recent audited accounts and full details of the project including any match funding.

b) Provide bank account details to which any award can lawfully be made.

4. Financial

The Council is not in receipt of a copy of the Village Hall audited accounts, however the application states that funding is available from the Village Hall of £14,500.00 and no other application for funding has been made to any other organisation (see summary at Appendix A).

The request from the Applicant is for £25,000.00 towards the total cost of the Project being £47,200.00.

The estimates submitted with the Application indicate that two of the three contractors (including the VH preferred contractor) are not registered for VAT.

The Council currently has £26,424 available in the Community Benefit Fund and £1,091 from Neighbourhood Fund

In Summary	Village Hall Committee	£ 14,500
	Parish Council	£ 25,000
	Shortfall	£ 7,700
	Total Estimated Cost	£ 47,200

5. Options

a) The Parish Council may approve and make a grant of a fixed sum to the Applicant which would not be subject to procurement under the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Finder. The Council would not be responsible for any additional or unexpected costs beyond the fixed sum awarded but will reserve the right to monitor the project to ensure that the grant is used in accordance with the application. VAT would not be reclaimable.

b) Alternatively, the Council may contract themselves for the works (i.e. order and pay directly) in which case, VAT would be fully reclaimable by the Council, but the Council would be leaving itself open to responsibility for any costing over-runs for the work. The contract let by the Council would be fully subject to Financial Regulations and in view of the amount involved, would need to be advertised on Contract Finder and is therefore subject to the tendering process.

6. Decision Required:

- a) Whether or not the Parish Council supports the Project, and
- b) With reference to the Council's Financial Statement and funding available, establish the amount and preferred method of financial support, and
- c) Conditions to be applied to any award

Clerk
Loppington Parish Council
3rd July 2023

Applicant :	Loppington Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Ref:
Project Title:	Project Green	
Project Cost:	£47,200.00	
Total Project Cost	£47,200.00	
Project Summary:	<p>Proposed work: Replace/repair and insulate the roof, dry-line external walls including entrance and gents toilet. Renew, upgrade and insulate main hall ceiling. Replace lighting with sealed LED down lights. Replace boiler and radiators (if required).</p> <p>Due to the age of the building it is cold and damp in winter. To provide a community building for the use of everyone in the Parish including surrounding villages and hamlets, which is a welcoming, healthier and safer environment to encourage greater community spirit and involvement and to reduce the carbon footprint.</p>	
Background Papers	Grant Application Form X 3 estimates supplied and previously circulated to members ranging from £27,500 - £76,163	
Amount Requested:	£25,000.00	
Legal Authority:	S139 Local Government Act 1972 Acceptance of gifts of property. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section a local authority may accept, hold and administer— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) for the purpose of discharging any of their functions, gifts of property, whether real or personal, made for that purpose; or (b) for the benefit of the inhabitants of their area or of some part of it, gifts made for that purpose; and may execute any work (including works of maintenance or improvement) incidental to or consequential on the exercise of the powers conferred by this section. (2) Where any such work is executed in connection with a gift made for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of a local authority or of some part of that area, the cost of executing the work shall be added to any expenditure under section 137 above in computing the limit imposed on that expenditure by subsection (4) of that section. (3) This section shall not authorise the acceptance by a local authority of property which, when accepted, would be held in trust for an ecclesiastical charity or for a charity for the relief of poverty. (4) Nothing in this section shall affect any powers exercisable by a local authority under or by virtue of [F1the Education Act 1996].	