Loppington Parish Council

Community Benefit Fund/Neighbourhood Fund
Applicant: Loppington Village Hall Committee
Committee Date: 8th September 2026

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).

Loppington Parish Council is also in receipt of a portion of Community Infrastructure Levy as a result of development in its area, referred to as Neighbourhood Fund.

See Appendix A

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, if possible, 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 currently in receipt of a copy of the Village Hall audited accounts. The request from the Applicant is for £10,825.20 inclusive of VAT towards the total cost of the Project.

The estimates submitted with the Application indicate that all contractors (including the VH preferred contractor) are registered for VAT.
The Council currently has £36,363.00 available in the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and £1,510 of Neighbourhood Fund

Application In Summary:

Supply of timber & membrane	£1,196.00
Labour	£2,925.00
Safety Surface material (wood chip)	£4,900.00
TOTAL	**£9.021.00**
	£1,804.20 VAT
	£10,825.20 inc VAT

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) Award sum requested excluding VAT (£9,021), either from CBF or combination of Neighbourhood fund and CBF

c) Award no or a lesser sum

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

Appendix A

Applicant :	Loppington Village Hall and Recreation Ground	Ref:
Project Title:	Replacement of Playground Surface and Surrounds	
Project Cost:	£10,825.20 inc VAT	
Total Project Cost	£10,825.20 inc VAT	
Project Summary:	Proposed work: The existing wood chippings that form the playground surface have significantly deteriorated over time and now require replenishment to ensure a safe and suitable surface for users of the playground equipment. In addition, the timber edging that contains the chippings has decayed and requires replacement. Replacing the membrane, wood chippings and surrounding timbers will benefit parents, guardians and children who use the playground. As an important community asset, these improvements will help maintain a safe, accessible and enjoyable environment for children using the facility. The quotes include the effort by the supplier to replace the timbers and lay the membrane. The transfer of the wood chippings from the drop-off area and to the playground area will be undertaken by the Village Hall Committee. We will also request support for this activity from the local community. The playground is used regularly by local residents and visitors from the surrounding area, and this investment will support the continued safe use of the facility for the foreseeable future.	
Background Papers	Grant Application Form X 2-3 estimates supplied and previously circulated to members ranging from £6098 - £9021 Play Ground Inspection Report which identifies deterioration of timbers and loose fill play surfacing which is lower than the recommended depth specified in BS EN 1176 for a fall height over 2.0m Recommendation: replace timbers and top up play safety surface	
Amount Requested:	£10,825.20 inc VAT	
Legal Authority: S139 Local Government Act 1972	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— (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].
Legal Authority: The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010	Reg. 59C. A local council must use CIL receipts passed to it in accordance with regulation 59A or 59B to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding— (a)the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b)anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. CIL is intended to fund infrastructure so it must be applied as above to support infrastructure such as sporting and recreational facilities, open spaces. A parish council receiving CIL must account for it, including reporting its CIL receipts and expenditure. This is because if the money is not spent or committed for projects meeting the above criteria it should be returned within 5 years of receipt.