

Grants and Donations Policy

As adopted on 8 July 2025,
Minute ref: 8.3, page 57-2025

To be reviewed and adopted in June 2026



The policy aims to simplify, and quality assure Ruskington Parish Council's procedures for 'donation' and 'grant' making. No differentiation is made between 'Grant' and 'Donation' but acknowledge that the latter is the usual form of award. For reasons of accountability it is necessary to formalise the application process to ensure access, openness and fairness to the many groups and organisations which we are asked to support. The policy is informed by a number of key principles aimed at making our process more robust and user friendly.

Aim

To ensure that all our award making activity is;

- Open
- Transparent
- Fair
- Competitive
- Supports local organisations

For financial year **2025-2026** Council has agreed a total expenditure budget of £1,000 for awarding grants and donations. Our awards, which will be considered at the October ordinary meeting, are open to established voluntary or community groups, as well as new or informal groups of parishioners who are or intend by the date of application to become formally constituted.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for an award an organisation must;

- Be established for charitable, benevolent, social, cultural, recreational, or philanthropic purposes.
- Have a constitution, or set of rules, which define its aims, objectives, and operational procedures.
- Have a bank account, with 2 unrelated signatories.
- Be able to provide a copy of its latest annual accounts and/or most recent Bank Statement. Accounts are to be checked and signed by a person independent of the Group. Other information, such as a safeguarding policy, may be asked for.
- Applications can be considered from new or 'yet to be established' informal groups wishing to undertake new projects, as the Council may be in a position to offer direction and guidance to assist such initiatives. However, in order to qualify, all criteria contained within this policy must be met.

What can be funded? The project should be something that makes the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit, or enhances the environment.

- It should benefit people who live in the Parish and be commensurate with the expenditure.
- Each group may only make one application per financial year.

Ruskington Parish Council support should be acknowledged as appropriate on all publicity and promotional material including posters, advertisements, press releases and leaflets. Financial support can only be used for the purpose for which the grant is given.

Preference will be given to local groups.

The following are not eligible:

- Support for individuals or private business projects.
- Projects that improve or benefit privately owned land or property.
- Projects that have already been completed or will have been by the time the grant is issued.
- Applications for support with operational costs and bills.

How will decisions be made?

Applications may be unsuccessful if demand exceeds available funding; however, all applications will be considered carefully. They will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- General eligibility
- Community Support
- Value for Money
- Environmental impact
- Community Involvement
- Feasibility
- Likely effectiveness

Ruskington Parish Council reserves the right to vary the application of this Policy in circumstances where significant economic benefit to the Parish is demonstrated.

Outcome of the award

- Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by the Clerk, and the RFO will make the payment as soon as possible after the meeting when the decision was made using the bank details provided.
- Successful applicants must provide evidence of the spending to the Clerk or RFO within six months of the award, unless agreed otherwise.

Grant Application Form for Ruskington Parish Council

Please read the Council's policy for awarding grants before completing this form.

You may use a continuation sheet for your application if required.

Name of organisation making the application:	
Do you have any direct links to a Ruskington parish Councillor? Yes / No	
Name of person to whom correspondence should be addressed:	Email address Other address for correspondence (if no email address is available.)
Bank account details for payment of grant by BACS. <i>(This cannot be a personal bank account.)</i>	Daytime telephone no:
Details of the organisation and its activities:	Amount of grant applied for:
What is the grant for, and who will benefit? (Give full details)	
Have you applied to any other body for a grant towards this project? (If yes, please give details)	
How else do you raise income? (Give details of subscriptions, fund-raising, contributions 'in kind', etc.)	

What age groups do you cater for?	
Total membership:	
Are you a registered charity? (If yes, please provide your registration no.)	
Signature (and position) of authorised applicant: (e.g. Chairman, President, Leader, Secretary, etc.)	
Date of meeting at which the application will be considered	7 October 2025
Minute No. of decision	
Power used to make grant	

Date of Payment	
Payment Reference	

This application must be accompanied by a copy of last year's accounts, the minutes of the last AGM and the organisation's current Constitution or Rules.

Applications to be returned to the Clerk at Ruskington Parish Council, 7-9 High Street North, Ruskington, Sleaford, NG34 9DY, or by email to clerk@ruskington-pc.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 11.59pm on 30 September 2025.

Applications will be considered by Council at its meeting on Tuesday 7 October 2025.