SALT AND ENSON PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDING POLICY

(Aligned with NALC Guidance and Statutory Powers)

1. Introduction

Salt and Enson Parish Council is committed to supporting local organisations and initiatives that improve the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the parish.

This policy sets out the framework for awarding grants in accordance with recognised best practice from the National Association of Local Councils and relevant legislation.

2. Legal Powers

Salt and Enson Parish Council may award grants using one or more of the following statutory powers:

- **Local Government Act 1972 Section 137**
  Allows expenditure where it will bring direct benefit to the parish or its residents and is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- **Local Government Act 1972 Section 145**
  Enables support for recreational and leisure activities.
- **Local Government Act 1972 Section 144**
  Allows support for tourism-related activities.
- **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 19**
  Enables contributions to charitable and public service bodies.
- **Localism Act 2011** *(if adopted by the Council)*
  Provides broader powers to act in the interests of the community.

3. Available Funding

- Total grant budget: £600
- The Council may:
  - Award the full amount to one organisation, or
  - Allocate smaller amounts across multiple applicants

All awards must represent value for money and demonstrate clear public benefit.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Grants are available to:

- Community groups
- Voluntary and charitable organisations
- Schools
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Local initiatives benefiting Salt and Enson residents

Applicants must demonstrate:

- A direct benefit to the parish or a significant number of residents
- A clear and defined use of funds
- Evidence of financial need
- Consideration of other funding sources

5. Ineligible Applications

The Council will not normally fund:

- Individuals
- Commercial or profit-making organisations
- Political parties or lobbying activities
- Religious organisations (unless for non-religious community benefit)
- Retrospective applications (projects already completed)
- Activities that are the responsibility of another statutory authority

6. Application Process

- Applications open: **1st April**
- Closing date: **31st May**

Applicants must:

- Complete the official Salt and Enson Parish Council Grant Application Form
- Provide supporting documentation (e.g. accounts, project costs)
- Submit the application to the Parish Clerk by the deadline

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

7. Assessment and Decision-Making

Applications will be:

- Checked for eligibility and completeness by the Clerk
- Applicants will be invited to give a presentation at a meeting
- Considered at a Full Council meeting in June 2026

In accordance with:

- The **Local Government Act 1972**
- The Council's **Financial Regulations**
- Proper practices outlined in **JPAG guidance**

Decisions will be made by resolution of the Council and recorded in the minutes.

Applicants must attend the deciding meeting.

8. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against:

- Community benefit and impact
- Number of Salt and Enson residents benefiting
- Alignment with Parish priorities
- Financial need and sustainability
- Value for money
- Evidence of match funding or other funding sources
- Previous grants awarded and outcomes delivered

9. Grant Conditions

Successful applicants must:

- Use the grant only for the approved purpose
- Provide evidence of expenditure (receipts/invoices)

- Submit a brief report on project outcomes
- Acknowledge Salt and Enson Parish Council support where appropriate
- Repay any unspent or misused funds upon request

The Council reserves the right to impose additional conditions where appropriate.

10. Payment of Grants

- Payments will normally be made via bank transfer
- Grants will only be paid to the organisation named in the application
- The Council may withhold payment until conditions are met

11. Monitoring and Accountability

To comply with audit requirements:

- All grants will be recorded in the Council's accounts
- Evidence of expenditure must be retained
- Grants will be subject to internal and external audit

In line with guidance from the JPAG, the Council must ensure:

- Proper use of public funds
- Transparency in decision-making

12. Conflicts of Interest

Councillors must:

- Declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other interests
- Withdraw from discussion and voting where appropriate

This ensures compliance with:

- The Council's Code of Conduct
- The **Localism Act 2011**

13. Publicity and Transparency

- Applications will be considered in a public meeting
- Details may be published in agendas and minutes
- Awards may be publicised to promote transparency

14. Equal Opportunities

The Council is committed to equality and will ensure all applications are treated fairly and without discrimination.

15. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains compliant with legislation and best practice guidance.

Supporting Local Projects. Strengthening Our Community.

Adopted at the meeting of: 2nd September 2026

Next review: May 2027