



Chirton & Conock Parish Council

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## CHARITABLE GIVING POLICY

### 1 Introduction

1.1 In common with many other parish councils, Chirton and Conock Parish Council ("Council") receives requests from third parties for donations. The power of the Council to donate is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, s 137, which allows a local authority to spend a limited amount on activities for which it has no specific power, but which the authority considers 'will bring direct benefit to the area, or any part of it or all of some of its inhabitants'. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 added the requirement that the benefit obtained should be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

1.2 If the Council has determined its eligibility to use the General Power of Competence, all donations made by the council will be made under the Localism Act 2011 ss 1 to 8.

1.3 The Council may receive donation requests the total sum of which far exceeds the sum of money the Council earmarks for this purpose when setting a prudent budget for the year. It is necessary, therefore, to implement policy guidelines to follow when deciding upon making a donation or grant. This document sets out the policy adopted by the Council.

### 2 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Council that where charitable organisations, supported by local people, can provide facilities and services for the community, they are supported financially in so doing. The Council will earmark a sum within each annual budget to be used at the sole discretion of the Council in furtherance of this policy.

### **3 Conditions of donations:**

3.1 All requests must promote the wellbeing of village residents or the fabric of the parish.

3.2 Applications must state the:

- a) purpose to which it will be put
- b) an explanation of the direct benefit to the parish of any activity of the body within the last 12 months

3.3 Requests will not be considered from individuals, non-charitable bodies outside of the Parish or for work unrelated to the parish.

3.4 Requests will not be considered from charitable bodies that have not demonstrated benefit within / for the parish within the preceding 12 months, or if it is the considered opinion of the Council that there is no reasonable expectation that any benefit within / for the parish is likely to be gained within the following 12 months.

3.5 Requests will not be considered from bodies from other areas of the UK unless the service they provide significantly benefits the parish or its residents.

3.6 Requests should be for the following financial year and are for single donations. The Parish does not commit to continuing support and no donation or series of donations is to be taken as an indicator of future funding.

3.7 The sum of money requested should be commensurate to the benefit obtained by the parish when compared to the overall activity of any organisation requesting such a donation. This is to mean that an organisation for which activity in the parish represents a very small proportion of its overall activity (eg a national charity) will not be eligible for as large a donation as a body for which the majority of its activity is promoting the wellbeing of village residents (eg a local village charity).

3.8 The maximum amount which a council may spend under section 137 (4) (a) in any one fiscal year (i.e. 1 April to the following 31 March) is an index-linked amount per head of the “relevant population”, calculated as set out below:

The relevant Government department (DCLG) usually notifies NALC of the agreed value for parish councils according to the indexation formula a short time before the relevant financial year. The value for local councils for the financial year 2022/2023 is £8.82.

The relevant population is the number of persons on the electoral roll for the town, parish or community as at 1 April. The electoral register is published and updated regularly. The electoral registration officer will be able to give details of numbers.

3.9 The decision of the Council is final.

#### **4 Procedure**

4.1 All donation requests will be considered at a full Council meeting. No donations will be granted at other times except at the sole discretion of the Council.

4.2 The Council will agree the total sum to be made available for donations when considering the budget and precept as a whole.

4.3 The Council will decide which requests are to be refused. It is not the policy of the Council to provide notice of this decision unless a stamped addressed envelope is provided for the purpose.

4.4 Of those donation requests considered favourably, the Council will decide the level of support it is able to make in each case. If a donation amount is suggested by the applicant, it will be used as a guide only.

4.5 Applicants who are able to demonstrate the greatest benefit within / for the parish as a proportion of their activity will be considered more favourably than those for whom such activity is marginal.

4.6 Payment will be made by cheque (or bank transfer if available) within 14 days of being approved.

4.7 Any funds that are budgeted for charitable donations but not allocated within that financial year will be rolled over into the charitable donation fund for the next financial year, thereby reducing the future budget for that year.

This policy was adopted by Chirton and Conock Parish Council at its meeting on 10th May 2022.