**DYRHAM AND HINTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

***Purpose of grants.***  The aim of the Parish Council’s Community Grants scheme is to promote an active local community by recognising the part played by the voluntary sector and community organisations.  The scheme provides financial support so that residents can benefit from an improved or increased range of services and activities.

2. ***Who can apply for a grant?***  Any organisation or group may apply provided that the Council is satisfied that the grant is in the interest of, or will directly benefit, the parish or its inhabitants or some of them.

* Grants will not be given to general appeals, national organisations (without a locally based group) nor will they normally be given to individuals.

* Applications will not be considered from private organisations operated as a business to make a profit or surplus.

* Applications will not be considered from organisations intending to support or oppose any particular political party, or to discriminate on the grounds of race, age, gender, disability or religion.

3. ***How much can an organisation apply for?*** Although the Council has a limited budget, there is no set limit for a grant. Each application is considered on its individual merits, taking into account competition and availability of funds. In consideration of larger grants, the Council will expect to be involved throughout the development of the scheme and, where the total amount of the application exceeds £5,000, the Council may, at its discretion and as a condition of approving the grant, require that a Council member is co-opted as a full member of the applicants controlling body.

4. ***How do I apply?***  In writing to the Clerk Mrs Christine Howard, 87 Merlin Way, Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6XS. Email: mail@dyrhamandhinton.org telephone 01454 882151 or 07973637273 website dyrhamandhinton.org.

(i) Explain the work of your organisation and how it benefits local residents.

(ii) Try to be specific about the benefits to those living in the Parish of Dyrham and Hinton.

(iii) New groups should explain the purpose of any “start-up” grant and their plans for becoming self supporting.

(iiii) Be specific about the amount sought and what it is for – i.e. a piece of equipment, furniture, particular event, staff training etc.  Where appropriate, it is helpful to provide options with varying levels of grant sought.

(v) Grants will not normally be given for running expenses.

(vi) The Parish Council will ask for quotes and a copy, if relevant, of up to date and last year's accounts.  If a site visit is required then a delegate or the applicant will meet with councillors to discuss what is needed.

(vii) Explain why the grant is being sought, give details of any other grants applied for, or granted, and any past or proposed fundraising activities.

(viii) Confirm whether you are prepared to acknowledge any approved grant in publicity material.

(ix) The Parish Council reserves the right to reclaim any grant should it not be used for the purpose for which it was approved, or in the event of the group or organisation folding during the financial year in which the grant was approved.

x)  The Community Benefit money has been given to the Parish Council and as

 elected councillors they will make the decision on grant applications.   Their decision

 will be final.  There may be occasions when it is considered wise to consult the wider community.  In this case a public meeting will be held.