

Donation Policy

Adopted at a Parish Council Meeting on the 15th May 2018.

Minute reference 2018_19_291

DONATION POLICY ISSUE: Policy guidance on Brimpsfield Parish Council donations to charities and other requests.

BACKGROUND: Parish Councils occasionally receive requests from charities, social enterprises and other not for profit organisations (charities) for financial support. These include both locally based organisations and local branches of national organisations. The numbers of such requests have increased in recent years, possibly as a result of reductions of other forms of Government funding.

POLICY: In taking decisions to make donations in response to requests from charities and other sources, the Parish Council accepts the advice of NALC, (National Association of Local Councils) and the legislation and powers enshrined in the 1894 Act that prohibits parish councils' involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church e.g. the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to the costs.

When evaluating requests for any donation from the precept, Brimpsfield Parish Council shall consider the following:

- a) The service provided by the applicant has a proven direct benefit to parishioners as a whole or a specific parishioner in their own rite.
- b) The service or benefit cannot be provided in any other way. Particular care should be taken to avoid making a grant to one applicant that may have a funding shortfall, if other sources of funding and charities or sources exist that are able to provide the service without the need for parish council donation support.
- c) Donations will not normally be made to support services that are the statutory responsibility of a Government department, local authority, (Gloucestershire Council, Cotswold District council), NHS trusts or other government bodies.
- d) The donation must be used directly for the provision of services and must not be used to pay for management costs or any other overheads.
- e) Donations will not be used to support continuing year on year running costs.
- f) The size of individual donations should be modest. Grants to individual applicants should be limited to a maximum of 1% of the precept.
- g) The total amount awarded in donations to applicants should not exceed 5% of the precept in any one year.

h) The donation by the Parish Council is entirely discretionary. The award of a donation should not be taken to signify any agreement to make additional grants in future years. A statement to this effect should be enclosed with all grant payments.