**Rawdon Parish Council Grants**

Rawdon Parish Council has a reasonable budget (£3,500 in the financial year 2013-14) for the award of grants.  The Council can only award grants using certain legal powers; specific powers allow the Council to provide funding for specific activities or projects which Members feel will be of benefit to Rawdon, e.g. grants to a sport club, for a music festival or towards community celebrations of special events such as the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.  Where no other power is available, the Council may decide to use its power under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, to award a grant where it feels that to do so will benefit **some or all of its residents or some or all of the area.**The critical words are **some or all** – in both cases.  This means that grants to individuals are not feasible and grants where the activity would not obviously benefit Rawdon are equally problematic – however worthy Members of the Council may feel the project to be.

Grant applications are considered at Council and Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings and, therefore, applications and any supporting documentation must be received at least 10 days before a meeting to allow the Clerk to check that the Council’s grants criteria has been met.

The Grant Application Form must be PRINTED and SIGNED, and then sent with the other information requested in the grant criteria.

All applications must be accompanied by appropriate accounts or supporting financial information.  Forms and the supporting information must be returned to the Clerk to the Council at least 10 days before the date of a Council or Committee meeting.

As well as submitting your signed hard copy application, it would be helpful if you could provide a copy of the grant application electronically (in Word or PDF) by email to the Clerk; it could then be distributed to councillors before the meeting at which the application would be considered.

 **Who can apply?**

Voluntary groups and societies, clubs, not-for-profit organisations, charities operating in Rawdon Parish where the benefit will be for Rawdon residents, schools, playschools, etc.

**Who cannot apply?**

* Individuals
* Regional or National charities are unlikely to be supported unless it is for a specific project in Rawdon where there will be obvious benefit to the Council’s area.

**What does the Council give grants for?**

* Capital projects, such as the purchase of equipment, works to buildings, improvements to premises
* The Council does not normally give grants towards running costs, salaries or consumables.
* The Council may support a community event, a festival or special event in commemoration which is held within Rawdon Parish.

**Are there any criteria or conditions?**

* The Council has a set of criteria which can be downloaded from the Council’s website. This gives more details about how the grant scheme operates.
* Grant recipients are expected to provide a report to the Council on how the grant has been spent; this report may be in person to the Council, or may appear in the Council’s newsletter, or on its website.
* Grants will not be payable to or for any commercial venture for private gain.
* If a Club has permanent bar premises from which it can raise an income, award of a grant will be at the Council’s discretion.

**How much is likely to be given?**

* At the discretion of the Council, up to a maximum of 40% of the approved cost, usually taken as the shortfall, having taken into account other sources of funding.
* On projects costing up to £500, a maximum grant of £200 may be awarded, should the Council so agree.

**How often are grant applications considered?**

* At every meeting of the Council and Finance & General Purposes Committee – presuming applications have been received.
* Completed applications must be received by the Clerk at least 10 days before the date of the meeting, to allow checks to be carried out as to completeness and to obtain any further information that may be necessary.
* Completed applications must be accompanied by all the documents listed on the grant application form.