

## Winterbourne Parish Council Donations Policy

Winterbourne Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year to donate to good causes in the parish as either a donation. The sum allocated by the Parish Council is part of the annual precept that the Parish Council collects from the electorate and is available for distribution from 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. The amount allocated for donations will be agreed when the Council sets its budget for the following year.

The Parish Council is governed by rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (section 137) which states that money must be spent on purposes for the direct benefit of the parish and be commensurate with the expenditure incurred; i.e. spending a large amount for the benefit of one or two people is not acceptable.

Applications will be accepted throughout the financial year and they will normally be considered three times during the year in the months of February, June and October

The following criteria apply:

- Only one application per organisation for a donation in each financial year
- A limit of £200 per application will be applied, except for exceptional circumstances
- The organisation must be non-profit making (not an individual)
- Donations are not made retrospectively
- The organisation must be one that benefits the local community
- The organisation will be asked to demonstrate a clear need for financial support by providing a description of the project/activity for which a contribution is needed
- A set of audited/examined accounts or a suitable financial statement will be required to ensure there is a genuine need for the donation
- Efforts to generate income from other sources may be required
- A report on how the money was spent will be required, with details of the outcome
- Monitoring may take place

Priority will be given to:

- Organisations benefiting the youth
- Organisations benefiting the elderly
- Organisations that improve the environment

Applications will not be considered from:

- Political groups
- National organisations
- Religious organisations