

DONATION TO CHARITY POLICY

ISSUE: Policy guidance on Parish Council donations to charities.

BACKGROUND: Coombe Bissett Parish Council 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 grants or donations in response to requests from charities, it is recommended that the Parish Council adopts the following policy guidance:

- a) The service provided by the charity has a proven direct benefit to parishioners.
 - b) The service or benefit cannot be provided in any other way. Particular care should be taken to avoid making a grant to one charity which may have a funding shortfall, if other charities exist which are able to provide the service without the need for grant support.
 - c) Grants will not normally be made to support services which are the statutory responsibility of a Government department, local authority (Wiltshire Council), NHS trusts or other government bodies.
 - d) The grant must be used directly for the provision of services and must not be used to pay for management costs or any other overheads.
 - e) Grants will not normally be used to support continuing year on year running costs.
 - f) The size of individual grants should be modest. Except in exceptional circumstances grants to individual charities should be limited to a maximum of 1% of the precept in any one year.
 - g) The total amount awarded in grants to charities should normally not exceed 5% of the precept in any one year.
 - h) The award of grants by the Parish Council is entirely discretionary. The award of a grant 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.
- With effect from 08-07-2014 as agreed at the Parish Council Meeting held on 08-07-2014.