

## Aldbourn Parish Council



### **Guidelines for Donations by Aldbourne Parish Council**

The powers of the Parish Council to make donations from its funds are regulated by government legislation, in particular Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This allows expenditure, up to a certain annual limit per elector, on donations which, in the opinion of the Parish Council, are in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to the Parish, or part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants. There is other legislation which allows expenditure for specific purposes; for example Section 214(6) of the same act permits expenditure on Churchyard maintenance.

Aldbourn Parish Council works hard to keep the precept at the lowest amount possible, and as a general principle does not wish to set a higher amount in order to then give away public money to other organisations. That said, the Parish Council may consider the making of occasional donations, applications for which would have to be consistent with the following guidelines.

Requests will only be accepted from organisations based within the Parish or who can demonstrate that the donation would be applied substantially to benefit residents of the Parish. Where money is being raised for charitable causes, the Parish Council must be advised of which charities will benefit from any funds raised.

The Parish Council will not fund:

- Individuals
- Political organisations
- National organisations, except where it can be demonstrated that the donation will substantially benefit residents of the Parish
- Events which are being run for commercial profit

The Council will consider assisting organisations and non-commercial events by:

- Underwriting a specific expenditure, such as toilet hire, to give organisers a guarantee that they will have the funds available to pay for items should the event not make enough money to cover all costs.
- Providing funding for a specific expenditure. Where the specific expenditure required is for an event, funding will only be considered if it is the first time the event is being held. If events are intended to be regular the Parish Council would normally expect that the organisers would retain surplus funds from the event to cover such expenditure on future occasions.
- On rare occasions the Parish Council may consider exceptional donations not detailed above.

The Parish Council will give due consideration to the Council budget when considering requests.

The Council reserves the right to decline any request without giving reasons for its decision.

**These donation guidelines were formally adopted by the Council  
at its meeting on 6 June 2018**