

Mabe Parish Council

Grants – Guidance

Adopted, February 2021

Every year Mabe Parish Council awards small grants to local groups supporting the people in the parish. If your group, club or activity needs a little extra funding for equipment, a new project, or help with running costs, the parish council might be able to help.

Application forms and more information are available from the parish council website, or on request from the parish clerk.

Grant applications will usually be decided at the council meeting in June of each year. If there are funds remaining after this meeting, then the next round of grants applications will usually be decided at the January council meeting. Grant applications should be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the relevant council meeting.

All grant applications must be accompanied by either:

- i. The most recent set of accounts for your organisation; or
- ii. A copy of your organisation's most recent bank statement and list of expenses and income for the past year

For information, in 2020/21 the following grants were given:

Mabe 1 st Brownies	£500
Helford River Children's Sailing Trust	£500
MYCP	£300
Mabe Christmas Lights	£400
Mabe WI	£613.17

Full grant guidelines are set out below.

Mabe Parish Council

Community Grant Award Guidelines

Mabe Parish Council has an amount of funds which it can release to help community based projects. To be eligible for funding the group must either be based within the parish, or providing for the residents of the parish.

If your group, club or activity need funding for equipment, projects, or with specific running costs, the parish council might be able to help. The council will also consider funding suggestions for parish-wide initiatives supported by at least 10 local electors.

Application process

- The council's grant application form must be completed clearly (paper copies accepted, or the online form can be used – search for 'grants for local groups' at www.mabeparish.com)
- Explain what you need to use community funding for (a specific project will be looked on more favourably than funds for everyday expenses)
- Include with your application a copy of your organisation's:
 - Most recent set of accounts; or
 - Copy of latest bank statement and a list of expenses and income for the past year
- Applications are decided by the council in the June meeting
- Applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their grant application. (Please provide a contact email address for this purpose)
- The parish council asks that groups receiving grant funding provide a brief summary of their funded works, for the Annual Parish Meeting in May of the following year.
- Applications for first-time funding (ie a new group, or a new project) will be viewed more favourably than recurrent applications. The parish council might not fund the full requested amount. Efforts are made to be fair to all similar organisations.

Conditions

- Grants are not awarded to individuals
- Grants will only be awarded to not-for-profit organisations
- Funding is more likely to be awarded for activities which benefit the community of Mabe parish.
- Funding is less likely to be awarded to fund general repairs, building works, or ongoing maintenance costs.
- Only one application per financial year from any organisation (however this can cover multiple projects listed in a single application)
- If your project does not take place for any reasons, you must inform the parish council. Grants are made for specific projects and funding may need to be returned if the project does not go ahead.
- Suggestions from the community for parish-wide initiatives will first need to be agreed by the parish council, and checks carried out that no other statutory public funds are available. Suggestions will then be posted on the parish noticeboard/website for a month, to allow public comment.

The total amount of grants made in any one year will be restricted to the amount set out in the parish council's annual budget. Grants will be made under powers set out in legislation, and if no other power can be found, the council may use section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

S.137 enables a parish council to spend a restricted amount of money on projects which will be of direct benefit to its community, either as a whole or in part, when there is no other legislation allowing it, provided there is clear evidence that local people support the project and are involved in carrying it out. S.137 confers powers to make grants to voluntary bodies, fundraising events, organisations providing not-for-profit public services, and to contribute to charities and disaster appeals. The benefit accruing must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Examples of s.137 expenditure include village histories, plaques, prizes, flood relief, landscaping and flower shows.

S137 is not a replacement for existing statutory powers. If powers exist to spend money under other legislation, the council must use that legislation and not s.137. If the council is specifically prevented by legislation from spending money on an item or service, it cannot use s.137 to circumvent the restriction. S.137 gives councils the power '*to incur expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorised*'. It is only used when there is no other specific power available, it is its *power of last resort*. It must benefit some or all inhabitants, not an individual, nor can it be made retrospectively.

A note on grant applications from churches and places of worship

The parish council may contribute towards maintenance costs of an open churchyard which is still providing space for any resident of the parish to be buried or ashes interred.

If a churchyard is open but not taking further burials/interments, then the council would need to seek legal opinion before granting funding.

The parish council does not have the legal power to contribute towards the fabric of the building or other property held by the church or ecclesiastical charities.

If a grant application relates to a building not used solely as a place of worship, but with wider community benefit, then the council would need to seek legal opinion before granting funding.