

REPORT 23.021 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Author: Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk, Laverstock and Ford Parish Council

Date: 16th February 2023

Background

The Clerk has received two grant applications. The Grant Policy can be viewed on the Parish Councils website.

Summary

Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre

OSLCC have applied for a grant of £1300 towards increased energy costs, opening a café/warm space and operating a community pantry. Their application is attached as ANNEX ONE.

Hampton Park Pavilion

The Pavilion have applied for a grant of £1000 towards increasing fuel bills. Their application is attached as ANNEX TWO.

Recommendation

That the council considers the applications received.

ANNEX ONE

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please be advised that all applicants are invited to attend and address the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Meeting deciding your application.

Although this is not compulsory it is seen to be beneficial especially for grant applications over £500.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council if you need help completing this application.

1. Name of Organisation.

Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre and Café

2. Amount of Grant Aid being requested.

£1300

3. Please detail your project or activity and explain why you need this grant funding.

We are looking for support with the Community Centre's energy bills as well as launching a Café that will be a warm space and Community Pantry. We strongly believe this project will improve multiple components of the local community in Old Sarum and Longhedge.

Part of the funding we are looking for will help set up the Pantry and warm space. Energy bills for the Community Centre have steeply increased, but are currently being eased by the government relief scheme, however there is uncertainty when this will stop. If and when the relief scheme ends the financial forecast for the centre would mean that it is only financially viable until early 2024, at which point all funds and reserves would be depleted and the centre would no longer be able to operate. Therefore we are looking for support with energy bills to help the Centre navigate this financially uncertain and challenging season.

But we are also aware the households in the local community will be struggling to stay on top of bills. We do not want the finances to mean that we have to stop offering social and supportive spaces for local residents in these difficult times. The grant would give the Centre the financial boost it needs to continue offer usage for many key groups and organisations in the medium term, as well as, financial support and security that would allow the us to offer a crucial provision for isolated and struggling in the Community Café.

The Café will be have two main initiatives: a warm space and a community Pantry. Whilst the Pantry is

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open we will also offer a warm space for social interaction, hot drinks and light refreshments for those who come regardless of whether they access the food from the Community Pantry or not. Volunteers will be on hand to support people and where possible refer onto other agencies if needed.

£800 would go towards energy bills for the next 5-7 months (depending on what happens with the relief scheme).

£500 would go towards setting up the Pantry and warm space.

(Breakdown:

Toaster £120

Freezer £300

Large Thermos x2 £40

Roller banner £40

4. Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan.

This is on the Laverstock and Ford Parish website <http://www.laverstock-ford.co.uk>

This project will support the Parish Plan to develop community spirit by providing space for local residents to find community and a welcoming environment. This is particularly poignant with the backdrop of the last 3 years, rates of isolation and loneliness increasing, as well as, the former community café that run at the centre coming to an end. There is currently no free space in Od Sarum or Longhedge that can provide warmth, social interaction and cohesion, as well as financial support and guidance.

The project will be run by local residents and volunteers from Old Sarum and Longhedge. The Community Centre will be utilised for this social and compassionate project. Funds received will also support this key strategic building and ensuring its future and its public-spirited goals.

The project will also resonate with ecological efforts cited in the Parish Plan. Fareshare take food that would normally go to food waste and redistributes it. Food waste that normally contributes to significant carbon emissions.

5. Please explain how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Grant Policy. This is on the Laverstock and Ford Parish website <http://www.laverstock-ford.co.uk>

This grant will go directly into maintaining a key community asset within the Parish and will also enable an essential project to begin that will directly impact and improve the financial, emotional and social wellbeing of residents from Od Sarum and Longhedge.

We have spoken to and visited several other community Pantry's and warm spaces to assess the best possible approach. Time and consideration have been taken to research timeframes, products and resources that are best value. Everything we have listed and explained has been deliberated and researched.

Should we receive the grant, the success of the project will be immediately measurable as we will be able to confidently open the doors of the community centre for those isolated or struggling particularly with energy poverty. Having these finances would alleviate any concerns of the community centre over energy bills for the immediate future. Meaning that it not can not only continue to operate, but also offer a crucial community project, in the warm space and Pantry.

The Pantry will also provide metrics that can be used to show the growth and success of the project.

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All data will be recorded to see how much food has been saved from land fill and numbers will show how many individuals and families are accessing the Pantry each week.

On February 8th 2023 the account balance for the Centre was £21,119. All of these funds are allocated.

6. Approximately how many of those who will benefit are Laverstock and Ford Parish residents?

The vast majority of users will be from the Laverstock and Ford Parish, with our immediate target being Old Sarum and Longhedge residents.

7. What will be the total cost of the above project or activity?

£1800 to get the Community Pantry and Warm Space started.

8. Have you applied for grant/s for this same project or activity to any other organisation/s? Please give details and dates when applications are allocated.

Abri Community Fund: applied for £1532

South Wiltshire Area Board: applied for £1500

Both are yet to go to panel.

Funding from these organisations would go towards kickstarting the Pantry to initially cover the cost of food from Fareshare and the fuel to collect from another provider for the first 6 months of running. We have connected with Fareshare who are able to offer us 80kg of surplus food at a weekly charge of £36.75 but we will need to collect this food from the Fareshare drop off point in Andover. This funding will cover costs for the Fareshare partnership whilst the Pantry gets up and running as well as fuel costs incurred.

9. If the total cost of the project or activity is more than the grant being applied for, how will the residue be financed?

We hope to receive something from our other grant applications.

Once up and running, ongoing overheads for the Community Pantry will be financed by paying memberships, who will pay a weekly amount that will then give them access to food items.

We have outlined costs for members as so: members will pay between £5, £7.50 and £10 each week that will enable them to 15, 20 or 35 food items or products (such as toiletries or sanitary products).

We currently have 70 households accessing food support weekly that will be coming to an end in March. We hope to direct these individuals and families to the Community Cafe. We are confident that many of these households will continue their relationship with us and access food through the Pantry, which will cover the cost of the Fareshare partnership and fuel.

For whatever reason, should the users decline, we can amend the amount that we receive from Fareshare that will cost less and better reflect the demand, so we are not tie to £36.75 pw, it could be less if we need to adjust.

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10. Name and Address of Contact.

[REDACTED]

11. Role with the applying organisation.

Old Sarum Community Centre Trustee and Community Café volunteer

12. Telephone Number and email address of contact.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. Is the Organisation a Registered Charity? If yes, please give registration number.

Charity Number: 1161414

14. Does the Organisation have a bank account?

Yes.

The Community Pantry is in the process of applying for one. But we have a holding account with Wessex Community Action for the time being, until the Pantry bank account is finalised.

Signed

[REDACTED]

Date 12.03.23

You may use a further page of A4 to submit any further information which you feel will support this application.

ANNEX TWO

LAVERSTOCK&FORDPARISHCOUNCIL

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please be advised that all applicants are invited to attend and address the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Meeting deciding your application.

Although this is not compulsory it is seen to be beneficial especially for grant applications over £500.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council if you need help **completing** this application.

1. Name of Organisation. Hampton Park Pavilion

2. Amount of Grant Aid being requested. £1000

3. Please detail your project or activity and explain why you need this grant funding.

We are a charity managing the community building, Hampton Park Pavilion, Ash Crescent Bishopdown Farm

We have seen a significant net increase in energy costs and have been keen not to increase the hiring charges to our regular users.

Gas and Electric costs in 2021 were £1864 and in 2022 £4587 (an increase of £2723) There was an increase in overall hiring income during 2022 to help offset this but we have not increased basic hiring charges. We are applying for a grant of £1000 towards the ongoing high energy costs expected in 2023. Whilst we are looking to reduce energy costs with some green initiatives it is not likely the charity will benefit from this investment until late 2023 or early 2024.

4. Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan. This is on the Laverstock and Ford Parish website <http://www.laverstock-ford.co.uk>

Our building features on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan and we are at the centre of the community in the 3 new estates, Bishopdown Farm, Hampton Park and Riverside Park. Many of our users offer direct support to the community through their activities eg Café on the Green (Mothers and toddlers), and The Circus Group (youth) It is important for the community that the physical building remains well looked after and available for use. Grant help in offsetting the increase in energy costs will help in this.

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5. Please explain how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Grant Policy. This is on the Laverstock and Ford Parish website <http://www.laverstock-ford.co.uk>

There is a direct benefit to local residents in maintaining the viability of this community centre. As a charity we only use income for support of the community centre, which has and continues to be run efficiently.

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6. Approximately how many of those who will benefit are Laverstock and Ford Parish residents?
Around 75% based on current use

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7. What will be the total cost of the above project or activity?
We can expect a similar high level of energy costs in 2023 of £4500 (ie much higher than normal)

Have you applied for grant/s for this same project or activity to any other organisation/s? Please give details and dates when applications are allocated.

No

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8. If the total cost of the project or activity is more than the grant being applied for, how will the residue be financed?

N/A

9. Name and Address of Contact.

[REDACTED]

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- 10. Role with the applying organisation. Chairman of Trustees**

11. Telephone Number and email address of contact. [REDACTED]

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- 12. Is the Organisation a Registered Charity? If yes, please give registration number.**

1140861

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13. Does the Organisation have a bank account? Yes

Signed

Date

15th February 2023