

REPORT: 23.126
LAVERSTOCK AND FORD PARISH COUNCIL
SUBJECT: Grant Application 1st Laverstock Scouts
Report Author: Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk
DATE: 13th October 2023

1. Report Summary

A report to councillors regarding a grant application from 1st Laverstock Scouts.

2. Background

The Scouts meet in Laverstock Village Hall, and have received notification of an increase in hire charges.

3. Summary

The grant application is attached below, requesting £560.00 to help meet hire charges which have increased four fold.

4. Recommendations

That the council resolves to grant £560.00 to 1st Laverstock Scout Group towards the hire charges at Laverstock Vill Hall, under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

incorporating Bishopdown Farm, Ford, Hampton Park, Laverstock,
Longhedge, Old Sarum, River Down Park and parts of Milford

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
communications@laverstock-ford.co.uk

1	Name of Organisation and date (the name of your club, charity etc. plus date of application)
	1 st Laverstock Scout Group, September 29 th 2023
2	Amount of Grant aid being requested (how much money are you asking for?)
	£560.00
3	Tell us about the project or activity you are applying for financial support for (this space is for a summary, you can also include further detail and supporting documents with this application).
	1st Laverstock Scout Group has three sections – Scouts, Cub Scouts & Beaver Scouts – that each meet weekly during school term times in Laverstock Village Hall. Following the Village Hall Committee AGM in July 2023, new hire charges from September 1st 2023 were announced which greatly exceeded (400+%) the previous charge and consequently the amount budgeted for by the Scout Group Trustee Board, which incidentally had already been increased from last year in expectation of a rise in hire charges. Furthermore, charges for electricity consumption, which is additional to hire charges, was also increased by 50% to cover higher utility costs. As the Scout Group finances have been severely depleted over recent years, a proposal to pay a reduced amount, equal to 50% of the new charges, that the existing budget would stretch to until the next opportunity to increase Scout Group members subscriptions mid 2024, was made to the Village Hall committee. This request for phased implementation of the new charges was however turned down by a majority vote of the Village Hall committee as they are in favour of securing a standardised charge from all hall user groups straightaway. Consequently, this decision has left the Scout Group facing the possibility of having to reduce the number of weekly meetings for approximately 80 young people belonging to 1st Laverstock in order to match the available budget unless additional funding can be found to bridge the budget shortfall until the end of the Scout Group financial year (31st March 2024).
LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION page 1 of 5 JLB/MARCH2023	

4	Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan (available to view at www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)
	1st Laverstock Scout Group consistently delivers high quality and relevant activities to 80 young people aged 5 – 14 that help them develop Skills for Life in a variety of settings. This clearly aligns with the Youth Provision element of the Community Resilience strategic imperative in the Parish Plan. Furthermore, 1st Laverstock Scouts regularly contribute to environmental & conservation work at the local water meadows which is in support of the Biodiversity element of the Climate Change & Environment initiative, as well as supporting Riverbourne Community Farm with car parking and planting flowers. Additionally, Laverstock Scouts get involved with local litter picks to support the Anti-Social Behaviour aspect of Community Resilience.
5	Please tell us how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's grant policy (available to view at www.laverstockfordpc.gov.uk)
	1st Laverstock Scout Group is a charity registered under the Scout Association, charity reg no 306101 A grant award will enable the Scout Group to continue to run meetings for all three sections through the winter of 2023/24 in a safe & comfortable local facility. Providing additional funding to cover this period will allow the Trustee Board to stabilise the Group's current marginal financial situation and subsequently re-establish a self-sustainable budget for the 2024-25 FY.
LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION page 2 of 5 JLB/MARCH2023	

6	Approximately how many people who will benefit from your project or activity are residents of Laverstock and Ford Parish?
	There are approximately 80 young people and 20 or so adult leaders and parent helpers belonging to 1 st Laverstock. Of these the great majority are resident within Laverstock & Ford parish.
7	What will be the TOTAL cost of your project/activity (not just the money you are applying for in this application but the overall cost of the project)
	The total cost for hire of the Village Hall for the 2023-24 FY is estimated to be £1400 based on the increased charges for the hall & electricity.
8	Have you applied for grant/s for this project or activity from any other source? (Please give details and tell us the dates of when these monies will be awarded)
	No
9	If the TOTAL cost of your project/activity is more than the grant being applied for how will you fund the remaining costs?
	We originally budgeted £450 for Village Hall hire & electricity consumption in 2023-24 FY, a 17.5% increase vs the previous year actual costs. By digging deeply into reserves intended for the purchase of new equipment and account stabilisation, the Trustee Board has been able to increase this budget to £840 to cover our proposal to pay 50% of the new hire charges. As this offer has now been rejected, we need to find a further £560 to cover hire charges for the full year.
LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION page 3 of 5 JLB/MARCH2023	