

Eight Parishes Community Interest Company (CIC)

Background of the CIC Guidelines and for how funding is awarded.

Background

The Eight Parishes CIC was set up as part of the Swinford wind farm development in 2012. The CIC consists of a number of trustees from parishes that are affected by the wind farm, namely one from each local Parish Council making a total of 8. The trustees meet at least 4 times a year to ensure the CIC runs correctly.

The trustees are responsible for managing a fund on behalf of Vattenfall, the wind farm's developers. Vattenfall contributes approximately £44,000 a year to the CIC fund. They have agreed to do this for 25 years from the first operational year and so will make no further contributions from 2037 and may expect the fund to be spent by that time.

The fund is retained as a cash account, managed by the trustees and paid clerk. The fund is split between the Parish Councils and apportioned depending on how far away each village is from the wind farm. For example, Cotesbach receives about 6% of the fund (c£2600 per year) and Swinford receives about 30%. More information, including minutes of CIC meetings and annual reports from each Parish Council outlining how the money has been spent is available on the Eight Parishes CIC website eightparishescic.org.

Funding Process

Anybody in the village can apply for funds from the CIC, at any time but applicants would typically represent an organisation that is serving the community rather than an individual resident wanting money for personal benefit. Cotesbach Parish Council can also apply for funds itself.

The amount requested cannot exceed the total balance of the Parish Council's funds. Details of the fund balance can be found in Parish Council meeting minutes or by contacting the Parish Council Clerk on cotesbachpc@gmail.com. Application forms are available from eightparishescic.org.

Applicants should include some evidence that the money they are requesting is based on competitive quotes and/or give reasons why they are using a preferred supplier. VAT included and excluded amounts should be provided. Forms should be returned to the Parish Council Clerk by email to cotesbachpc@gmail.com. The Parish Council decides whether the applicant should be awarded the grant at the next Parish Council meeting, unless the request is urgent and requires an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting.

If successful, the grant is awarded and the Parish Council will be paid by CIC. The Parish Council then pays the applicant directly or the retailer depending on the applicant's preference.

Receipts or invoices will be requested as evidence of the grant being fulfilled according to the application for audit purposes. All payments will be net of VAT. VAT will be reclaimed by the Parish Council.

Funding Principles

The application form does provide some principles for the use of the fund which were set by the CIC when first established. They are based on the community benefit that Vattenfall may be expecting from the fund.

In line with those overriding principles each Parish Council, within the CIC, is entitled to set their own criteria for the use of the funds.

Cotesbach Parish Council has set some guiding principles for applicants to help understand what might result in a successful application. Applications should :

- Show to benefit to as many residents as possible in the village, not just a select group of individuals or a single organisation.
- Not be used for profit making purposes
- Be used for assets and infrastructure rather than expendable costs for one off occasions, e.g. hosting events or village gatherings.
- Be requesting for funds that are otherwise not available or hard to obtain through other funding routes/private contributions.

Reviewed and agreed by Cotesbach Parish Council at their meeting on 3rd September 2024

