

Withiel Council Policy Statements

Introduction

Withiel Parish Council Standing Orders refer to Withiel Parish Council Policy on a number of matters. That policy is stated below, and references the paragraph number of the Standing Orders which refer to the policy.

Parish Council's Policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media.

Withiel Parish Council Standing Orders paragraphs 5 k xviii and 21a

Contact with the Media on matters concerning Parish Council business is only to be made through the Council Communication's Officer. The Parish Council Communication Officer is to consult the Chairman for a line to take before briefing the media.

Parish Council's Policy regarding absences from work

Withiel Parish Council Standing Orders paragraph 19 b

The Parish Council's only employee is the Clerk. If the Clerk is absent from work for any reason for a protracted period, then the Chairman will consult CALC for guidance on the correct way to handle the matter.

Parish Council's Policy regarding the handling of grievance matters

Withiel Parish Council Standing Orders paragraph 19d

If a grievance is raised by the Clerk, a Councillor or a member of the public, then the Clerk or the Chairman, as appropriate, will consult CALC for guidance on the correct way to handle the matter.

Parish Council's Policy in respect of handling requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Withiel Parish Council Standing Orders paragraph 20a

If a request is received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and if the data requested is legally held by the Parish Council in its archives, then the Clerk will deal with the matter using the guidelines set out in "The Guide to Freedom of Information" published by the Information Commissioner. The copy held by the Clerk at the time of drafting this policy is Version 4.1 dated December 2013.

Parish Council's Policy in respect of handling S106 Grants. CALC have suggested we agree a strategy for these disbursements.

Withiel Parish Council is considering applications for grants from the S106 Fund held by Cornwall Council, and currently amounting to about £20,000.

Overarching Policy

Withiel Parish Council should disburse funds to organizations who fall into the following categories

- Community
- Sporting
- Education

and who have:

- Written Constitutions or a Trust Document
- Trustees
- Bank Account
- Audited Accounts
- Charity Number or Exemption there from

Detailed Policy

Community

The two community organisations that fulfil these requirements and hold property are:

Withiel Parochial Church Council. Withiel PCC maintain a 800 year old, Grade One Listed, Church which was last valued at £2.7M. They do this without assistance from Truro Diocese with money raised from the village at various events held throughout the year. Indeed, they contribute £5K a year to the Diocese before they start funding building projects and maintenance. They may from time to time need help with this. However, they have recently spent £190,000 on the Roof and Tower and £40,000 on the Organ. While there are always projects to hand, it is unlikely that they will need to call on S106 Grants in the near future. There is no question of using S106 money for Mission and Ministry purposes.

They are a charity exempt from Registration

Withiel Playing Fields Association

The WPFA Committee manages the Village Hall and Playing Field. The Playing Field is currently the only sports infrastructure in the village. Thus, The WPFA falls under two of the three funding categories: Community and Sports.

Letting income and charitable fundraising fund the day-to-day cost of running the Hall. Charitable fundraising (Autumn Show, Johnny Cowling, Pantomime, Auction of Promises etc) is necessary because the letting rate for village institutions with members on the WPFA committee is less than cost. These institutions are:

- Bell Ringers
- Bowls Club
- PC
- PCC
- Ruthern Valley Players
- WI
- Yoga

It follows first that these institutions represent the whole village, and that the hall has to fund improvements for its building through applications to grant making bodies, such as the Withiel Parish Council's S106 Fund. Recent projects include:

Project	Funder	Cost
Swings	Awards for All	£10,000
Gas pipe replacement	Self Funded	£4,500
Installation of Air Sourced Heat Pump Heating	S106	£10,000

Future project for the next five years include:

Project	Funder	Cost
Defibrillator	FLEET WPC S137 Grant (Plan Grant)	£4,000
Router and Telephone (in support of above)		£1,050
Stage Curtain	Cllr Batters Community Chest S106 Grant applied For	£3,000
Window Curtains and re-decoration main hall	St Breock Wind Farm	£5,000
Disabled Toilet	Awards for All	£10,000
Kitchen Refurbishment	TBD	£15,000

The WPFAs have Trustees, a bank account, and are registered with the Charity Commission with a Charity Registration Number.

Other Community Projects

S106 funds have been applied to low-level community projects to release further public funds. An example is the Street Light Collector in the Village. S106 funds may support the Village Magazine, and the Ruthern Valley Players.

Education

Although Withiel does not have a school or play group, a number of Withiel Children attend schools in Nanstallon and St Wenn. These institutions could apply for S106 Grants if they have a suitable project to fund for which public funding is not available.

Conclusion

The WPFAs are required to support the village by providing a vital asset – a modern, well-maintained Village Hall.

The Hall and the Church are the only substantial assets in the village “owned” by the community. This paper shows that it is unlikely that the Church will require to draw down S106 funds.

It follows that the WPFA require the bulk, but not necessarily all, of the S106 grants from the Retire Solar Farm and the St Breock Wind Farm to improve their Hall and keep it up to date for the benefit of the Village.

The Council will make grants in accordance with these principles.

Janet Shearer (Chair)

2nd December 2015