



Thursday, May 22, 2025

1. Contact Information

Organisation/Group Name

Melksham PHAB

2. Grant Awarded

Which type of grant are you applying for?

Core Grant

Total Awarded:

600

Date Received:

Monday, November 25, 2024

3. Item/Activity

Please give details below of the items or activities funded by this grant

Items and Activities Purchased

Item	Amount
Coach Hire	-

Total Amount Spent from Melksham Town Council Grant:

0

Has the grant been spent in accordance with its purpose as previously approved?

No

4. The Benefit of your grant

Please give details below of the ways in which your grant has been of benefit to the work of your group and how this benefits the community and/or individuals within the Melksham Town Council areas.

We have not yet been able to spend the monies. Our summer trip is due to take place on 13/07/25 with a trip to weymouth. We are currently liaising with multiple coach companies to try and procure the cheapest rate possible. This will allow the money received from the grant to go as far as possible. As described in the original grant application "Our members have shared with us that the community activities they participate in are being offered less frequently, which has had a significant impact on their social lives and well-being. Many of the local clubs and gatherings that provide them with vital social interaction and a sense of belonging are either reducing their sessions or facing cancellations. This lack of regular, dependable community engagement is leaving our members feeling increasingly isolated. Now, more than ever, the ability to offer consistent social inclusion through our club is critical for maintaining stability in their lives. One of the key challenges our members face is accessing these activities due to both the reduced availability of clubs and the growing issue of transport. For many, public transport is either inaccessible or unreliable, making it difficult to attend the few activities still running. This situation is especially concerning during the summer months, when our annual seaside trips to places like Weymouth or Weston-super-Mare are key highlights that provide joy, connection, and inclusion. These outings are essential opportunities for our members to come together and enjoy a shared experience, fostering a

sense of community that is deeply needed. To ensure all members can attend this year's summer seaside trip, we will need to hire a coach as this is the only viable transportation option (for example, spaces for two bariatric wheelchairs alongside other seats for members). The funding we are seeking will specifically cover the cost of transportation for this trip. By supporting the cost of this event, particularly the transport for the seaside trip, we can ensure that our members are able to participate in these vital summer activities, preventing further isolation during this important time of year

How many people in the Melksham Town Council area have benefited from the grant? 30+

5. Additional Information

Is there anything else that you would like to say regarding your grant, the grant application process or means communication regarding your grant?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I'd like to suggest that it could be helpful for grant applications to be initially assessed for eligibility before groups are invited to the decision meeting. Where possible, an indication of whether funding is likely to be awarded could be shared in advance. In situations where more information is needed, it might be more supportive to invite charities and volunteers on the night to provide that clarification, rather than placing the emphasis on delivering a speech or presentation.

From my experience, the vast majority of people attending these meetings are volunteers who give up significant time and, often, personal resources to support their communities. Asking them to publicly justify their funding in a pressured setting can feel like an additional burden. While I appreciate that some level of prioritisation is necessary when funds are limited, I believe decisions should not be based on how well a group can speak in a public forum. Instead, councillors or decision-makers might consider proactively engaging with groups in advance to understand their impact and needs more fully.

At the meeting I attended, there was a lengthy wait before the grant decisions were discussed, and initially it was communicated that only a very small amount of funding was available (which was later clarified). There was also an expectation to speak, which we hadn't been prepared for – though I acknowledge that may have been an oversight on our part.

Overall, I'm grateful for the grant opportunity and the support offered. I share this feedback in the spirit of helping to make the process feel more inclusive, efficient, and fair for all involved – especially the volunteers working hard to deliver valuable local services.

Signature



Date

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Would you like your information retained to be contacted about grant opportunities from Melksham Town Council Events

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