**SNETTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**GRANT AND DONATION POLICY**

Under section 137 of the Local Government Act, Parish Councils may make donations to local organisations or charities which are “in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to” all or some of their residents, and is not allowed under any other expenditure. Note this forbids donations to individuals, and makes general charitable donations to national groups unlikely to qualify, unless there is a local link or specific scheme – eg. local hospice or “drop in” centre.

Section 137 donations have to be listed separately in Parish accounts so one can see a running total of what is covered under this section. There is a current legal maximum of £7.42 (2016/17) per elector, which would be about £16,000p.a. for Snettisham. No Parish would ever give such an amount for general donations, but this might be needed to fund a parish-wide scheme or facility of some sort.

We have to take account of our own Equal Opportunities Policy, which in particular states: *Any grants or donations made by the Council will take account of the equality of opportunity and access to their services provided by the recipients*. Political donations are forbidden.

It is, finally, important to stress that simply because a project or organisation is “worthy” it does not necessarily follow that a donation should or can be made.

Council should have guidelines to ensure consistency and fairness when making any donation. The following ranges cover each type of donation.

Suggested ranges, local groups:

* Supports the whole Village: £100-£250
* Supports many in the Village: £50-£100
* Supports a few in the Village: £25-£50

Local Charities:

* Same ranges as above

Regional/National Charities:

* Where many Villagers may potentially benefit: £50-£100
* Where a few Villagers may potentially benefit: £25-£50

Unless otherwise determined the s.137 budget for the year should be 1.5% of the Annual Operating Budget – i.e. before ring-fencing of funds etc.

**These guidelines were adopted by Council at its meeting of 2nd July, 2014, and amended at the meeting on 1st February, 2017.**

Simon Bower, Parish Clerk

2/2/17