

## **Cotesbach Parish Council Policy on Eight Parishes Community Interest Company (CIC)**

### **Background of the CIC and guidelines for how funding is awarded E Hunt, Cotesbach PC Chairman and Eight Parishes CIC Trustee.**

#### **Background**

- The Eight Parishes CIC was set up as part of Swinford wind farm development.
- The CIC consists of a number of trustees, each one a Parish Council representative from nearby villages. The trustees meet about 4 times a year to ensure the CIC runs correctly and are responsible for managing a fund on behalf of Vattenfall, the wind farm's developers.
- Vattenfall contributes approx. £44,000 a year to the CIC fund which they agreed to do this for 25 years from the first operational year. The wind farm will reach its 10<sup>th</sup> operational year in 2022.
- The fund is retained as a cash account, and apportioned to each Parish Council. The amount apportioned depends on how far away the village is from the wind farm. Cotesbach receives about 6% of the fund. Swinford receives about 30%. More information, including minutes of CIC meetings and annual reports from each Parish Council outlining what funds have previously been awarded to each Parish Council, is available on the Eight Parishes CIC website [eightparishescic.org](http://eightparishescic.org)

#### **Funding Process**

Anybody in the village can apply for funds from the CIC, at any time but the amount requested cannot exceed the total amount available to the Parish's apportioned funds at that time (see latest Parish Council meeting minutes for the available balance or contact the Parish Council Clerk).

Application forms are available from [eightparishescic.org](http://eightparishescic.org) and should be returned to the Parish Clerk at [cotesbachpc@gmail.com](mailto: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 pays the applicant. Receipts will be requested as evidence of the grant being fulfilled according to the application, and for auditing purposes.

The Parish Council then requests the funds from the CIC. Depending on the grant amount. The Parish Council may need to request and receive the funds from the CIC before making payment to the successful applicant. This could take up to 4 months so applicants shouldn't expect payment to be immediate.

## **Funding Principles**

Each Parish Council is entitled to set their own criteria for the CIC funds - the “rules” are not set by the Eight Parishes CIC and Cotesbach has set the following guiding principles for applicants, to help understand what might be a successful application.

Applications should ideally:

- Show to benefit the village as a whole where possible, not just a select number of individuals or single organisation.
- Be used for capital assets, that provide a benefit for a number of years, and not for ongoing maintenance / servicing of existing assets.
- Be requesting funds that are otherwise not available or hard to obtain, i.e. through more relevant funding routes or from private contributions.
- Be realistic in its request for funds as the Parish Council will typically want to retain a reasonable proportion of their fund at any one time.