

Eight Parishes Community Interest Company (CIC) Fund - Cotesbach Parish Council V3 updated September 2026

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, each from a local Parish Council that makes up the 8 parishes that are “affected” by the wind farm. The trustees meet about 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 approx. £44,000 a year to the CIC fund. They agreed to do this for 25 years from the first operational year. Vattenfall will make no further contributions from 2037 and may expect the fund to be spent by then.
- The fund is retained as a cash account, managed by the trustees and a paid clerk. The fund is split between the Parish Councils, apportioned depending on how far away the village is from the wind farm. Cotesbach receives about 6% of the fund (c. £2,600 a year). 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 by each Parish Council, is available on the Eight Parishes CIC website [here](#).

Funding process

- Anybody in the village can apply for funds from the CIC, at any time. Applicants would typically represent an organisation that is serving the community, rather than a resident wanting money for personal benefit. Cotesbach Parish Council can apply for funds themselves.
- The amount requested cannot exceed the total balance of the Parish’s funds (see latest Parish Council meeting minutes for the available balance or contact Cotesbach Parish Council Clerk).
- Application forms are available from [here](#).
- Applicants are advised to show some evidence the funds they are asking for are competitive, and / or give reasons for why they are choosing a preferred supplier. Please present VAT inclusive and VAT excluded amounts.
- Forms should be returned to the Cotesbach Parish Council Clerk (email cotesbachpc@gmail.com).
- Cotesbach Parish Council decides whether the applicant should be awarded the grant. They will endeavour to do so within 21 days, or at the next Parish Council meeting, whichever is sooner.
- Decisions do not need to be made at a Parish Council meeting, but any decisions outside of a meeting will be ratified and minuted at the following council meeting.
- If successful the grant is awarded. The Parish Council is paid by the CIC, and the Parish Council in turn pays the applicant or directly pays any sub-contractor or retailer used depending on the applicant’s preference.
- Receipts or invoices will be requested as evidence of the grant being fulfilled according to the application, and for auditing purposes. VAT will usually be claimed back by Cotesbach Parish Council

Funding principles

- The application form does provide some overarching principles for the use of the funds, set by the CIC when first established, and based on the community benefit that Vattenfall may be expecting from the funds.
- Extending these overarching CIC funding principles, each Parish Council within the CIC is entitled to set their own criteria for the funds.
- Cotesbach has set some guiding principles for applicants, to help understand what might result in a successful application.
- Applications should **ideally**:
 - **Show to benefit to as many residents as possible in the village, not just a select number of individuals or single organisation.**
 - **Not be used for profit making purposes.**
 - **Be used for assets / infrastructure rather than expendables or costs for one-off occasions e.g. not for hosting events or village gatherings.**
 - **Be requesting funds that are otherwise not available or hard to obtain (i.e. through more relevant funding routes or from private contributions).**