

# *Bucklebury Parish Council*

## Policy for Donations to Charities.

1. Regular annual contributions to local environmental groups should be maintained, and identified in the budget each year. These groups do not have to reapply for a donation every year; however the Parish Council will review the benefit to the community at the December meeting. These groups are: West Berkshire Countryside Society, CPRE and GLEAM.
2. Other charities and organisations which can demonstrate a specific benefit to the local community and which are in line with the objectives of the Parish Plan will be invited to apply for a grant by November 30<sup>th</sup> each year or throughout the year if the need arises. Under certain circumstances, Bucklebury Parish Council may donate a sum for major projects for a specified number of years. The invitation will be issued in the September edition of The Oaks. Applications will be by letter to the Parish Clerk.
3. The Memorial Hall and the Victory Room will also be invited to apply for financial assistance by November 30<sup>th</sup> and their requests will be considered at the same meeting in December. Any grants for these public buildings will be separate from the fund for discretionary donations (see para 4). Formal requests for improvement project grants should be made in writing detailing a timescale for the proposal and any other sources of funding sought or made available. Exceptionally the Parish Council may agree to ring-fence an amount of money for the coming financial year as a contingency fund for unforeseen maintenance problems. The village hall committees will be asked for a statement of their annual accounts.
4. Bucklebury Parish Council will decide at its meeting in December which groups to support in the coming financial year, and the budgetary allocation to applicants. The fund for discretionary donations is likely to be in the order of 5% of the precept (this excludes donations to Para 1 charities). Payment dates will be at the discretion of the Parish Council.
5. This is a policy for donations. Loans could be considered as a separate item by BPC.