



Hartlebury Parish Council

Proposal Template

Date	6 th July 2021
Agenda Item No	19
Title	Parochial Church Council (PCC) – Application Letter 29 th March 2021
B a c k g r o u n d	On 16 th May 2020 the PC received a request which was considered by the Finance Committee (FC) Meeting 22 nd June 2020. At said meeting the FC considered notes left from the previous Clerk, in short the funding of this item was not included in the years budget which had appeared in previous years ie the maintenance of the churchyard at St James Church £1600 and that the PC should not legally be contributing as it must be maintained by the PCC as stated in Canon Law. However as the PC had always helped, the Chair of the FC sort to gain clarification which came back as legally the PC couldn't help. At a meeting of the full council 7 th July again this matter was raised and again the PC asked to re-check their findings which they did.
C o n s i d e r a t i o n s	<p>The previous Clerk had raised concern that the PC should not be contributing to the PCC. Advise sort was clear and not to fund.</p> <p>The PC has again been asked (29th March 2021) to consider a donation for the season 2021, the annual cost of mowing the two churchyards approximately £3000 per year. This was reviewed by the FC meeting 27th April 2021 Last year it was concluded the PC had no option and thus not make a contribution and the reasons given for this year would remain the same. It was suggested to consider making a contribution directly to the charity thus reducing the PCC's financial obligation. However the people maintaining the churchyards do not have a charity status, they are a community interest group.</p> <p>Clerks notes:- A parish council must have a legal power to give funds. No legal power to fund the maintenance of a church yard even via a charity because ultimately the funds are still being used for the same purpose.</p>
P r o p o s a l s	<p>The PC received advice from the previous clerk, it's governing body CALC/NALC that it could not fund, last year the PC followed the advice given. The Clerks notes also point to the PC having no legal power to fund. The advice this year has not changed from last and so the conclusion must therefore remain the same.</p> <p>The FC have no option, they must follow all advice and so are unable to recommend making a contribution.</p>
Risk	Possible challenge if funding to the PCC
Author	Cllr Tranter (Chair)
Date	29 th June 2021