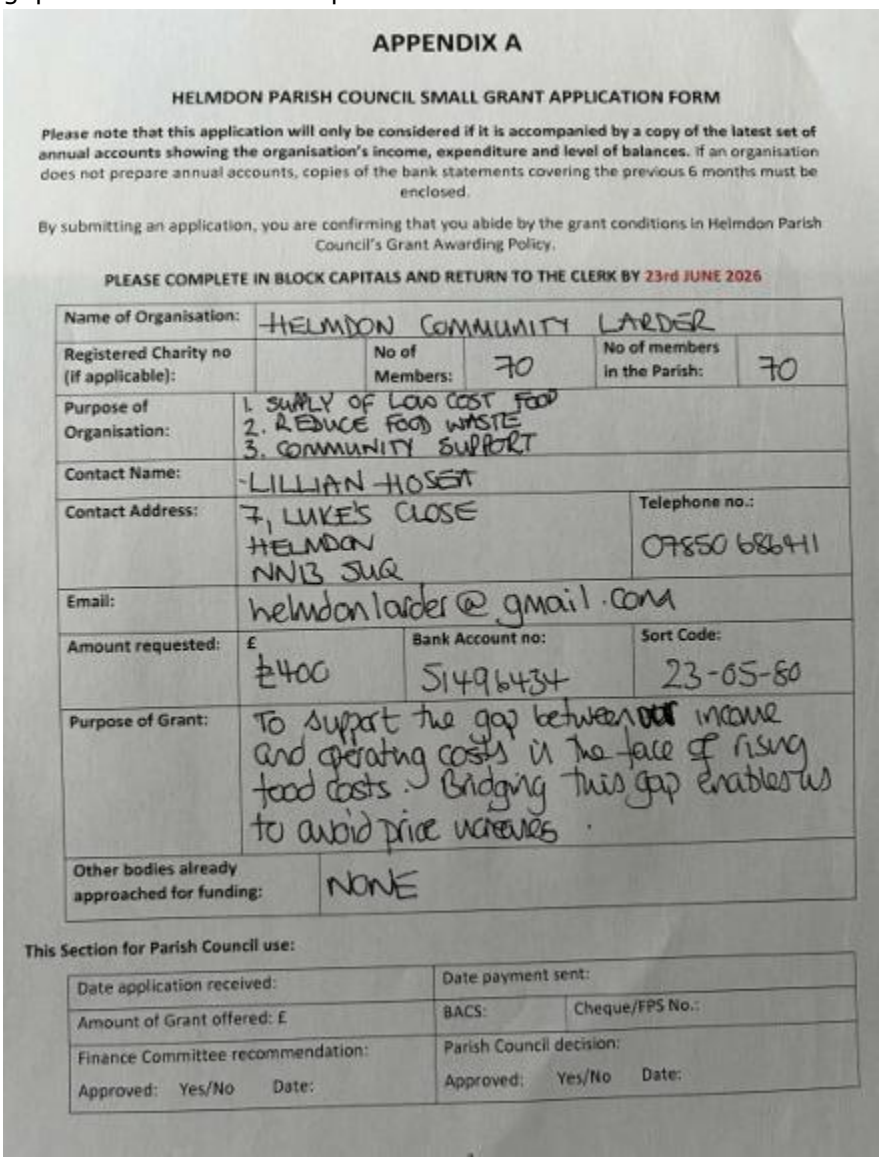
620. To note correspondence from Helmdon community larder regarding a proposed amendment to their HPC grant purpose and discuss next steps

Original Small Grant Application Form stating that the purpose of the grant was to ' support the gap between income and operating costs in the face of rising food costs. Bridging this gap enables us to avoid price increases'



APPENDIX A

HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL SMALL GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Please note that this application will only be considered if it is accompanied by a copy of the latest set of annual accounts showing the organisation's income, expenditure and level of balances. If an organisation does not prepare annual accounts, copies of the bank statements covering the previous 6 months must be enclosed.

By submitting an application, you are confirming that you abide by the grant conditions in Helmdon Parish Council's Grant Awarding Policy.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND RETURN TO THE CLERK BY 23rd JUNE 2026

Name of Organisation:	HELMDON COMMUNITY LARDER				
Registered Charity no (if applicable):		**No of Members:**	70	**No of members in the Parish:**	70
Purpose of Organisation:	1. SUPPLY OF LOW COST FOOD 2. REDUCE FOOD WASTE 3. COMMUNITY SUPPORT				
Contact Name:	LILLIAN HOSEY				
Contact Address:	7, LUKE'S CLOSE HELMDON NN13 5UQ			**Telephone no.:**	07850 686411
Email:	helmdonlarder@gmail.com				
Amount requested:	£ £400	**Bank Account no:**	51496434	**Sort Code:**	23-05-80
Purpose of Grant:	To support the gap between ~~our~~ income and operating costs in the face of rising food costs. Bridging this gap enables us to avoid price increases.				
Other bodies already approached for funding:	NONE				

This Section for Parish Council use:

Date application received:	Date payment sent:	
Amount of Grant offered: £	BACS:	Cheque/FPS No.:
Finance Committee recommendation: Approved: Yes/No Date:	Parish Council decision: Approved: Yes/No Date:	

Email confirming receipt of grant stating ‘We will be buying Christmas goodies with this grant.’

Re: 2026 Small grant application

HL Helmdon Larder

THU AUG 13 3:30 PM • • GRANTS

Parish Clerk

Hi Freya

Firstly, thank you for the award. We are most grateful. As I said at the annual meeting, these funds will help us plug the gap between our income and expenditure. We will be buying Christmas goodies with this grant.

I am, however, a little surprised that our accounts, which are registered with the Charity Commission are insufficient. They have been perfectly ok in previous years and so I wonder why they are now inadequate? The Parish Council are aware of how we work since the Larder was set up when I was a councillor.

While Helmdon Larder works entirely for the benefit of the Helmdon Village we HAVE to be a part of a larger CHARITY (not Company) in order to gain access to low cost food (which is cheaper than retail prices), procedures, oversight and insurance. Without this we would simply be a regular village shop, selling food that is more expensive than the supermarkets and would inevitably have gone out of business by now. It is precisely because we are part of Food for Thought Daventry that we have managed to stay in operation for almost four years and our village has benefitted from this relationship. We are too small to operate independently and could not afford to engage an accountant to produce our own accounts.

In addition, the policy you sent me does not state that we cannot be part of a larger organisation, just that the organisation should work solely for the benefit of the village, which we do.

Could you please help me understand why, all of a sudden, after three years, we do not fit within the award?

Many thanks

Lillian

> On 6 Aug 2026, at 10:26, Parish Clerk <clerk@helmdonparishcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning,

I hope that you are well! I just wanted to let you know that the small grant application could not be approved as it did not meet the conditions of the Small Grants Scheme. The accounts provided were not specific to Helmdon Community Larder, but a larger umbrella company.

The Parish Council have resolved to award a discretionary grant of £350 as a one-off for this year only. Any future Small Grants Scheme application must meet the conditions.

The funds will be transferred across to the account details provided shortly.

Please do just let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Freya
Best wishes,

Freya Seward
Clerk
Helmdon Parish Council

Please note: The clerk is employed for 11 hours per week so responses may not be immediate.

Proposal: Purpose of Council Donations

Dear Parish Councillors,

At a previous meeting, the Parish Council considered a grant application for a specified purpose but decided that it would be more appropriate to make a donation. Although the clear implication was that the donation would support the same purpose as the original grant application, this was not expressly recorded. The recipient subsequently changed the intended use of the donation.

To promote transparency, accountability and a clear audit trail, I propose that the Council adopt a simple requirement that the intended purpose of every donation is specified and recorded at the time the donation is approved.

Proposed Resolution for the September Meeting

"That, whenever the Parish Council approves a donation, the purpose for which the donation is made shall be expressly stated in the resolution and recorded in the minutes, and the recipient shall be informed that the donation is to be used for that purpose unless the Council subsequently agrees otherwise."

This would avoid ambiguity, ensure that public funds are applied as the Council intends, and provide clarity for both the Council and recipients.