

# CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



## Item 14: Grants Awarded to Cuckfield Preschool

In 2018 an increase in the amount of rent paid by Cuckfield Preschool to use Cuckfield Village Hall was reviewed and agreed. The rent was increased to £7.50/hour, which provided them a significant discount against the regular hourly rent charged to all other hirers of £12 per hour. At the time, it was agreed that a proposal would be made by Preschool for an affordable annual increase over a period of time to enable them to reach the same hourly rent as all other hirers.

The Preschool have made a proposal to increase the amount of rent paid per hour by 50p, increasing by an additional 50p per year over the next 3 years:

2019-20	£8.00 per hour
2020-21	£8.50 per hour
2021-22	£9.00 per hour

Based on professional advice taken, the Clerk would like to recommend that instead of charging the Preschool a reduced hourly rate, a grant should be applied for and paid to the Preschool to assist with their costs. This will provide a much clearer and more transparent view of the support the Parish Council is providing to the Preschool and will remove perception that we are providing a preferential hire rate to them.

As you can see from the table below, based on the current and proposed hourly rates it is clear to see the level of grant that would be required:

<b>Cuckfield Preschool Hire Rates: 1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020</b>					
	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>£7.50/hour</b>	<b>£8/hour</b>	<b>£12/hour</b>	<b>£15/hour</b>
Mondays	38	£2,280	£2,432	£3,648	£4,560
Tuesdays	40	£2,400	£2,560	£3,840	£4,800
Wednesdays	40	£2,400	£2,560	£3,840	£4,800
Thursdays	40	£1,500	£1,600	£2,400	£3,000
Fridays	40	£2,400	£2,560	£3,840	£4,800

<b>Total Hire Charges</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>£10,980</b>	<b>£11,712</b>	<b>£17,568</b>	<b>£21,960</b>
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Grant Subsidy Provided by CPC (based on Standard Hire rate of £12 vs CP rate of £7.50)	£6,588
Grant Subsidy Provided by CPC (based on Standard Hire rate of £12 vs CP rate of £8)	£5,856
Grant Subsidy Provided by CPC (based on Standard Hire rate of £15 vs CP rate of £8)	£10,248
Grant Subsidy Provided by CPC (based on Standard Hire rate of £15 vs CP rate of £8.50)	£9,516
Grant Subsidy Provided by CPC (based on Standard Hire rate of £15 vs CP rate of £9)	£8,784

The table above is purely to illustrate what the potential grants may look like over the coming years, based on the amount of subsidy the Parish Council contributes to the running of the Preschool. These grant levels would change should the hourly rate paid by Preschool or charged by the Parish Council to use the hall change during these periods.

The hourly rate paid by Preschool includes all utilities, cleaning, building and grounds maintenance, all contract servicing i.e. fire protection, boilers etc and free use of several large storage cupboards. The elements Preschool contribute to separately are their own cleaning supplies for the end of session clean required by all hirers, and the telephone.

I therefore recommend that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 (to coincide with the new annual contract) this new process is implemented. Cuckfield Preschool would apply for a grant in the same manner as all other organisations which will be reviewed as part of the grant awarding process.

The benefit of this will be to have a clear and transparent process to show the support provided by the Parish Council to the running of the Preschool, rather than hiding this in a reduced hourly rate.