

**GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 20TH MARCH 2008****SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE****REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES****1. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE**

1.1 The Panel's budget for 2007/2008 is £195,354. The following amounts have been allocated to date:-

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief	138,000
Grants awarded by Panel	15,550
Grants determined by Officers in consultation with Chairman and Vice Chairman	28,915
Trophies, footballs etc	1,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>183,465</b>

Therefore, the balance available for grants to the voluntary sector is £11,889.

The total of amounts requested for applications listed in this report is £600. In addition there are a number which do not specify amounts.

**2. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

2.1 The current general criteria for awarding financial assistance are listed below:-

<b>Annual Award</b>	<b>£</b>
(a) OAP Association with own building	250
(b) OAP Association without own building	130
(c) Junior Sports Club	45 per number of members
(d) Individuals representing Wales at home	130
(e) Individuals representing Wales abroad	250
(f) Jazz Bands	70
(g) Choirs	70
(h) Scout/cubs/brownies/guides/boys brigade/crusaders	45 per number of members
(i) St John Ambulance:-	
Cadets	70 per number of members
Badgers	45 per number of members
(j) Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA's with own premises	470
(k) Youth Associations without own premises	45 per number of members
(l) Brass and Silver Bands	500

All other applications for sponsorship and miscellaneous grants are treated on their merits.

2.2 A total of nine new applications have been received and are appended below for consideration:

2.2.1 **Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales (RFCA)**

2008 is the Centenary Year for RFCA and the Territorial Army. A Garden of Remembrance is to be created at Monmouth Castle and a number of commemorative events are planned. The RFCA has requested a contribution to support events and to provide facilities for reservists. No amount has been specified. In past years grants of £200 and £300 have been awarded to local branches of the British Legion in respect of special events.

2.2.2 **Cardiff, Vale & SE Wales Beekeepers Association**

A grant of £200 is requested to help with the cost of protective clothing for the training apiary that is situated in Caerphilly. Last year £60 was awarded in respect of the first application.

2.2.3 **Gwent Epilepsy Group**

The above aims to improve the quality of life for epilepsy sufferers in the Caerphilly CBC area. The Group provides home visits and training at schools. Transport costs can be up to £600 a year and any contribution to this cost would be appreciated. The only previous application was in 2002/03 when £250 was awarded. This award was not a start-up grant. No funding is currently being provided by other areas of service.

2.2.4 **Blackwood Little Theatre (BLT)**

BLT have been providing quality community theatre for nearly 80 years, perform at festivals across Wales and have been Wales finalists for the last four years. Following last years final, BLT have been invited to represent Wales in May at a Theatre Festival in Canada. The cost of the trip will be around £5000 and an unspecified contribution is sought. BLT has not applied for financial assistance for a number of years. The Leisure Services Department have indicated that they do not have any budget for this type of funding.

2.2.5 **Caerphilly & Gelligaer Mencap Society**

The above provides support and practical help to people with learning disabilities and their families within the Rhymney Valley. The Society held its annual party in January for about 80 members and is seeking a contribution to the cost. In past years £50 has been provided.

2.2.6 **Crosskeys Community Group**

This group aims to regenerate interest in community involvement and pride. A grant of £100 is requested towards the cost of the official opening of the Community Hall and gardens that was attended by over 120 residents. This is the first application. Similar community groups have been awarded £100 (£200 for 1<sup>st</sup> application).

2.2.7 **Glynderi Bonsai Club**

The above has 12 adult members who meet at Oakdale Community Hall. The Club exhibits at local events and holds Bonsai clinics. A grant of £300 is requested to help purchase display materials. This is the first application to the Panel. Similar applications in the past have been awarded grants of between £35 and £50.

2.2.8 **Hannah McDonald, Blackwood – Formation Team Dancing**

Hannah is aged 9 years and is part of the Ystrad Fawr Latin Formation team that will be taking part in the British Championships at Blackpool in April. Individual sponsorship is requested. The Panel has already supported the above team and three other teams that are taking part in the Championships.

### 2.2.9 **Natasha Hopkins, Swansea – Horse Riding**

Miss Hopkins has recently been selected to ride for Wales at an International Competition in Australia. The trip will cost around £1500 and an unspecified contribution is requested. The normal practice of the Panel is only to consider applications from residents of the County Borough.

## 3. **WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

3.1 At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that the following criteria would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund.

- (i) A grant of no more than £1,500 be given to partly fund projects of £4,500 and over;
- (ii) Smaller projects less than £4,500 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost;
- (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred;
- (iv) No organisation be allowed to apply in consecutive years.

The Council's annual allocation from the Fund is £46,045. The total of grants awarded so far this year is £35,650, and therefore the balance available is £10,395. Seven new applications are appended below. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £7,801.

### 3.2 **St John's Church Hall, Rhymney**

The installation of energy efficient lights and rewiring are estimated to cost £8660. A grant of £1500 is requested towards this cost.

### 3.3 **Caerphilly & District Guide Association**

The Association would like to install central heating in Caerphilly Guide Hall. The lowest estimate received is £4935 and a grant of £1500 is sought to help with the cost.

### 3.4 **Caerphilly Male Voice Choir**

A grant of £1500 is sought to help purchase new uniforms for choir members. Detailed costings have not yet been received but the total is expected to exceed £5,000.

### 3.5 **The Solitaires (Marching Band), Aberbargoed**

New instruments and outfits are estimated to cost £7759. The maximum grant is requested.

### 3.6 **Oasis Christian Centre, Abertridwr**

The Oasis Christian Centre is part of Abertridwr Community Church. A toilet is to be converted into a shower room at a cost of £2153. A grant of £718 would represent one third.

### 3.7 **Oakdale Silver Band**

The Band wishes to purchase a new soprano cornet, which is a key instrument. The cost is £1750 and a grant of £583 would represent one third.

### 3.8 **Welsh Talking Book Service**

A grant of £500 is requested to help purchase cassettes and recording equipment for this national service that is run by the North Wales Society for the Blind. A similar amount was awarded in 2002/03.

### 3.9 **2008/2009 Applications**

The following organisations have submitted applications to the Welsh Church Fund but are not eligible until 2008/2009. Therefore any grant approvals will be paid from next year's allocation.

#### 3.9.1 **St Augustine's Church, Pontllanfraith**

The project is to redecorate the Church exterior, protect windows with polycarbonate and repair fencing. Total cost is estimated at £6225 and the maximum grant is requested.

#### 3.9.2 **St David's Church, Fleur de Lis**

A new heating system has recently been installed at a cost of £6,100. The maximum grant is requested.

#### 3.9.3 **St Peters RC Church, Bargoed**

The Church intends to replace a fence, repair the boundary wall and replace light fittings. Total cost is estimated at £6733 and a grant of £1500 is requested.

#### 3.9.4 **Ty Isaf Baptist Church, Pontymister**

A new gas supply and central heating system have recently been installed at a cost of £12,827. A grant of £1,500 is sought.

## 4. **WELSH CHURCH FUND – 2007/2008 ALLOCATION**

- 4.1 In order to fully utilise the 2007/2008 cash allocation, it may be necessary to for some grants approved from the Panel's budget to be transferred to Welsh Church Fund approval. In past years a list has been prepared at year end for approval by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and members are asked to agree that this arrangement will apply in the current year should it be necessary.

## 5. **DEFERRED APPLICATIONS**

The following were deferred for further information at the last meeting:-

#### 5.1 **Oakland Hall Allotment Association, Bargoed**

A grant of £200 is requested towards the running costs of the allotments.

#### 5.2 **Ynysddu Allotments Association**

A grant of £250 is sought towards the running costs of the allotments.

### **Welsh Church Fund**

#### 5.3 **Glanddu Allotments, Tir y Berth**

A grant of £1500 is sought to help purchase 12 greenhouses for allotment holders.

#### 5.4 **Gwerthonor Ganol Allotments, Bargoed**

The maximum grant is sought towards the purchase of 21 sheds for allotment holders plus picnic benches and a table.

#### 5.5 **Oakland Hall Allotments, Bargoed**

A grant of £1500 is sought towards the cost of creating a car park, paving pathways and purchasing a steel lock-up.

## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Members requested the following information at the meeting held on Thursday, 21st November 2007:

### 6.1 Allotments

- 6.1.1 There are 80 allotment sites across the County Borough with over 2000 plots under cultivation. Allotment rents are among the lowest in the Country and are considered to be good value. A typical plot costs £4.50 a year. All allotment produce is for private consumption and cannot be sold for profit.
- 6.1.2 In the former Rhymney Valley Area, Caerphilly CBC owns the land, fixes rents and collects the rent income. Each site has an association of allotment holders who manage the site.
- 6.1.3 In the former Islwyn area, sites are leased by the Council or private estates to the Islwyn Allotments Federation, which fixes rent levels and collects the income. The Federation also receives a grant from CCBC to manage allotment sites (£8323 in 2007/2008).

### 6.2 Welsh Church Fund

- 6.2.1 The Welsh Church Fund Scheme made by Monmouthshire County Council lists the charitable purposes to which the Fund may be applied, one of which is social and recreational. This is defined as "the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation being facilities which are available to members of the public at large". Such facilities are then defined as "playing fields, other sporting facilities, parks, open spaces and centres or halls for meetings, lectures or classes".

## 7. CRITERIA FOR GRANT AID 2008/2009

- 7.1 The current general criteria for financial assistance are listed above at 2.1.

Expenditure on the various categories over the past three years is listed below:-

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008 (to date)
	£	£	£
OAP Associations	4440	4200	3710
Junior Sport Clubs	7045	6185	5175
Individuals	10720	12520	14540
Jazz Bands	180	0	0
Choirs	920	1410	350
Scouts/Guides etc	1925	3170	1575
Youth Associations	3375	1880	1510

- 7.2 It can be seen that the largest increase in expenditure is in respect of individuals representing Wales. In 2005/2006 a total of 60 individuals received grants. So far in 2007/2008 the total is 74 whereas in 2001/2002, 28 individuals received a total of £4560.
- 7.3 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to retain or amend the set criteria for 2008/2009, or whether a wider review of the financial assistance scheme should be undertaken following the May elections with consideration of any applications being deferred until complete.

## 8. APPROVAL OF GRANTS

- 8.1 Currently, grants that are covered by the set criteria are approved by the Head of Corporate Finance and the Chairman under delegated powers, and reported to Panel at the earliest opportunity. If no scheme review is required, members are asked to consider whether this arrangement will continue.
- 8.2 In view of the forthcoming elections, members are also asked to consider whether the Chairman should continue to approve grants until the current Council is dissolved.

## 9. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

- 9.1 The following grants have been awarded in accordance with the agreed criteria:-

Reference	Name of Organisation	Grant Awarded £
172/07	1st Blackwood Brownies	90
173/07	5th Caerphilly Brownies (1st Application)	45 + 45
174/07	1st Oakdale Scout Group	135
175/07	Nelson & District Choral Society	70
176/07	Blackwood OAP Association	130
177/07	Pontlottyn OAP Association	130
178/07	Ystrad Mynach OAP Association	130
179/07	Gary Beagen, Llanfach - Shooting	130
180/07	Andrew Atwood, Caerphilly - Bowls	250
181/07	Martin Selway, Caerphilly – Bowls	250
182/07	Scott Eales, Blackwood – Kickboxing	250
183/07	Martin Lewis, Caerphilly - Badminton	250
184/07	Carla Parfitt, Pontymister – Football	250
185/07	Lauren Robson, Blackwood – Taekwondo	250
186/07	Risca Judo Club (1st application)	90 + 90
187/07	St Martins Ward OAP Association	130
188/07	Andrew Williams, Cwmcarn – Cycling	130
193/07	Caerphilly Aged Persons Welfare Cttee	250
194/07	1st Abertysswg Scout Group (1st Application)	90 + 90
195/07	Blackmonk Explorer Scouts, Ystrad Mynach	45
196/07	2nd New Tredegar Scout Group	90
197/07	1st Ystrad Mynach Scout Group	135
198/07	Budo-Kan Martial Arts, Abercarn	180
199/07	Blackwood Rugby Football Club	360
200/07	Cwmcarn Gymnastics Club	225
201/07	Fochriw Social Football Club (1st Application)	45 + 45
202/07	Caerphilly Male Voice Choir	70
203/07	Newbridge & District Ladies Choir	70
204/07	Gabriella Deane, Oakdale – Dancing	130
205/07	Natasha Wassall, Risca – Dancing	130
206/07	Ellie Welsh, Newbridge –Dancing	130
207/07	Emma Gough, Blackwood – Dancing	130
208/07	Lucy Main, Blackwood – Netball	250
209/07	Gilfach OAP Association	130
210/07	Liam Bouse, Pontllanfraith – Bowls	130