



## GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2008 AT 3.30 PM

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PRESENT:

Councillor J. R. Davies – Chairman  
Councillor G J Hughes - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Cullen, R.W. Gough, A.G. Higgs, K. James,  
Mrs J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

N Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), S. Grant (Finance Manager, Corporate Services),  
D. Jones (Senior Accountancy Assistant) and G George (Committee Services Manger)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, J.O. Evans, E.K. Griffiths, K. Lloyd,  
M. Prew.

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Councillor D. Cullen declared an interest in agenda item 5.2 (Ynysddu Allotments Association) because he was a member of that association;
- Councillor R.W. Gough declared an interest in agenda item 3.3 Caerphilly and District Guide Association Conservation Group) because his daughter was an Assistant District Guide Commissioner;
- Councillor A Higgs declared an interest in agenda item 2.2.1 (Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales (RFCA) because he was the Councils representative on this body.

#### **2. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE**

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report and agreed that any underspend be carried forward into next year.

#### **3. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officers report the following applications for financial assistance be approved for the amounts shown.

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales (RFCA) - £200+£200

Cardiff Vale & SE Wales Beekeepers Association - £30  
Gwent Epilepsy Group- £250  
Blackwood Little Theatre (BLT - £250  
Caerphilly & Gelligaer Mencap Society - £50  
Crosskeys Community Group -£100+£100  
Glynderi Bonsai Club - £35+£35

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officers report the following applications for financial assistance be refused: -

- Hannah McDonald, Blackwood – Formation Team Dancing
- Natasha Hopkins, Swansea – Horse Riding

#### **4. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the previously agreed criteria a maximum grant of £1,500.00, be made from the Welsh Church Act Fund to the following:-

- St John's Church Hall, Rhymney
- Caerphilly & District Guide Association
- Caerphilly Male Voice Choir
- The Solitaires (Marching Band), Aberbargoed

RESOLVED that in accordance with the previously agreed criteria a grant of no more than one third of the costs up to a maximum of £1,500.00, be made from the Welsh Church Act Fund to the following: -

- Oasis Christian Centre, Abertridwr
- Oakdale Silver Band

#### **5. WELSH TALKING BOOK SERVICE**

RESOLVED that the service be asked for the number of beneficiaries in the Caerphilly County Borough and the Head of Corporate Finance in consultation the Chairman be authorised to determine the application for financial assistance.

#### **6. 2008/2009 APPLICATIONS**

RESOLVED that as the following organisations have submitted applications to the Welsh Church Fund but were not eligible until 2008/2009 any grant approvals be paid from next year's allocation.

- St Augustine's Church, Pontllanfraith
- St David's Church, Fleur de Lis
- St Peters RC Church, Bargoed
- Ty Isaf Baptist Church, Pontymister

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

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 Head of Corporate Finance and consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED that this arrangement apply in the current year should it be necessary.

**8. DEFERRED APPLICATIONS**

**Oakland Hall Allotment Association, Bargoed**

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

RESOLVED that a grant of £50+£50 be made to this association.

**Ynysddu Allotments Association**

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

RESOLVED that a grant of £50+£50 be made to this association.

FURTHER RESOLVED that allotments associations be added to the current general criteria for financial assistance.

**Welsh Church Fund**

The following applications had been deferred for further information.

**Glanddu Allotments, Tir y Berth**

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

**Gwerthonor Ganol Allotments, Bargoed**

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

**Oakland Hall Allotments, Bargoed**

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

RESOLVED that the above applications as submitted under the Welsh Church Fund be refused and the applicants be advised to apply under the councils scheme

**9. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The following applications for financial assistance had been received after the agenda was prepared:-

**Cancer Lifeline Upper Rhymney Valley (CLURV)**

Cllr A Higgs declared an interest as a trustee on the board of this organization.

RESOLVED that a grant of £250+£250 be made to this organization.

**Churchill Park Neighborhood Watch**

RESOLVED that this application for financial assistance be refused.

**Elizabeth Ralph, Abertridwr**

RESOLVED that this application for financial assistance be refused.

**10. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND**

RESOLVED for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following applications for financial assistance from the Welsh Church Act Fund be approved and awarded the maximum grant.

- Bethel Baptist Church Penyrheol
- 1<sup>st</sup> Gilfach (St Margarets) Scout Group

**11. CRITERIA FOR GRANT AID 2008/2009**

The current general criteria for financial assistance was noted along expenditure on the various categories over the past three years. Members were 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.

RESOLVED that the current set of criteria be retained and a wider review of the financial assistance scheme be undertaken at a future meeting but in the meantime any applications for financial assistance be dealt with under the current criteria.

**12. APPROVAL OF GRANTS**

Currently, grants that were covered by set criteria were approved by the Head of Corporate Finance and the Chairman under delegated powers, and reported to Panel at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED that in view of the forthcoming elections the Head of Corporate Finance and Chairman continue to approve grants until the current Council was dissolved.

**13. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS**

Members noted the grants that had been awarded in accordance with the agreed criteria.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.