



GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor J.O. Evans - Chairman
Councillor R. Bidgood - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, R. Bidgood, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Cullen, J.O. Evans, R.W. Gough, G.J. Hughes, K. James, K. Lloyd, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs R. Passmore, Mrs K. Presley, M. Prew, Mrs J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

S. Grant (Finance Manager, Corporate Services), D. Jones (Senior Accountancy Assistant) and R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A.G. Higgs and Officer N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received at the start and during the course of the meeting as follows – Councillor Mrs A. Blackman (Nelson Village Partnership), Councillor D. Cullen (Alexandra Court Complex and South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group), Councillor J.O. Evans (Oakdale and Penmaen Community Partnership), Councillor R. Gough (Friends of Cefn Fforest Eco Park), Councillor G. Hughes (DASH Travel, Bargoed and Pengam & Communities Partnership), Councillor Mrs G. Oliver (Pontlottyn Boys and Girls Club, St Tyfaelog's Parish Church Hall and Zoar Welsh Baptist Chapel, Pontlottyn) and Councillor Mrs J.A. Pritchard (DASH Travel, Bargoed). Details are minuted with the respective item.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the chairman.

Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 3rd July 2008 (minute nos. 1 - 10 on page nos. 1 - 4)

3. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given by the following applications for financial assistance.

4.1 RESOLVED that the following applications for financial assistance be approved:-

	£
(a) Aber Valley Male Choir	70
(b) Bargoed & District Art Society	100
(c) Blackwood Community First Responders (1st application)	100 + 100
(d) Britannia - Fleur de Lys Community Group	100
(e) Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	100
(f) Caerffili Ramblers (1st application)	60 + 60
(g) Caerphilly Women's Aid (1st application)	50 + 50
(h) Cwmcarn Dancing Club	50
(i) Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili (1st application)	50 + 50
(j) Nelson Village Partnership	2,500
Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared a personal interest in this application as the local ward member. She took no part in the in the discussion or vote.	
(k) Newbridge-Online	100
(l) New Start 4 Life, Deri	100
(m) Royal British Legion Newbridge Branch	100

4.2 RESOLVED for the reasons outlined at the meeting the following applications for financial assistance be refused:-

- (a) Army Benevolent Fund
- (b) Wales Council for Deaf People
- (c) Alexandra Court Complex
Councillor D. Cullen declared an interest in this application as he had advised the group on their application. He took no part in the discussion or vote.
Members recommended the group be advised of alternative means of funding.
- (d) Bryn Road Tenants & Community Association
Members recommended the group be advised of alternative means of funding.
- (e) Crosskeys and Pontywaun Partnership
- (f) Pengam and Communities Partnership
Councillor G. Hughes declared an interest in this application as he had previously been involved with the partnership. He took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (g) Penllwyn Community Partnership
- (h) Oakdale and Penmaen Community Partnership
Councillor J.O. Evans declared an interest in this application as he had previously been involved with the partnership. He took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (i) Taekwondo-Wales
Members recommended the group be advised of alternative means of funding.
- (j) Zoar Welsh Baptist Chapel, Pontlottyn
Councillor Mrs G. Oliver declared a personal interest in this application as the local ward member. She took no part in the in the discussion or vote.

- (k) DASH Travel, Bargoed
Councillor Mrs J.A. Pritchard declared an interest in this application because she knew the applicant and Councillor G. Hughes declared an interest because he had advised members of the company on the subject of funding. They took no part in the discussion or vote.

4.3 Members discussed whether future reports should detail whether an application was within a Community First area. The panel decided this information was unrelated to the Voluntary Sector applications and should not be taken into consideration.

5. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

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

- (a) Blackwood Community First Responders
- (b) Brithdir Community Centre
- (c) Groeswen Chapel, Caerphilly
- (d) Moriah Baptist Church, Risca
- (e) Risca United Football Club
- (f) St Martin's Church, Caerphilly
- (g) St Peter's Church, Aberbargoed
- (h) St Tyfaelog's Parish Church Hall
(Councillor Mrs G. Oliver declared an interest in this application as a member of the P.C.C. She took no part in the discussion or vote.)
- (i) TAB Life Centre, Pontllanfraith
- (j) Elim Tabernacle Church, Abertysswg
- (k) 1st Gilfach Scout Group
- (l) Oakdale Baptist Church

5.2 RESOLVED for the reasons outlined at the meeting the following application for financial assistance be refused:-

- (a) Valleys Fibromyalgia Group
Members recommended the group be advised of alternative means of funding.

6. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

Members noted the grants awarded by Officers, in accordance with the agreed criteria, as detailed within the report.

Councillor Mrs G. Oliver declared an interest in Pontlottyn Boys and Girls Club as she is a member of the Committee.

In closing, Members made reference to alternative funding arrangements that were available, and questioned whether a review of the grants criteria was due. In order to consider this, Members requested a background paper of the existing criteria together with guidance on the Community Chest criteria and other grants available from the County Borough.

7. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- (a) Nansi Richards Trust

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the application be refused.

- (b) Cwmfelinfach Residents Association

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be given to the association.

- (c) Fleur de Lys Local History Society

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be given to the society. A further £100 be given as this is the first application.

- (d) Friends of Cefn Fforest Eco Park

Councillor R. Gough declared an interest in this application because his Officers had been working with the group to secure funding. He took no part in the discussion or vote.

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be given to the group. A further £100 be given as this is the first application.

- (e) South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group

Councillor D. Cullen declared an interest in this application, as he is Chairman of this group. He took no part in the discussion or vote.

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be given to the group.

- (f) Women's Institute, Fleur de Lys

RESOLVED that a grant of £50 be given to the institute.

8. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

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

- (a) Elim Baptist Church, Pontllanfraith
- (b) St Cenydd Road Presbyterian Church, Caerphilly
- (c) St Mary & St Abu Saifain Coptic Church, Risca
- (d) Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cefn Fforest
- (e) Youth Activities Project (Voice FM)
- (f) Abercarn English Baptist Church

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.