



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON MONDAY, 23RD MARCH 2009 AT 4.00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, D. Cullen, G.J. Hughes, K. Lloyd, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs K. Presley,
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 Manager)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, R.W. Gough,
K. James, M. Prew

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received at the start of the meeting as follows:

- Councillor K Lloyd declared an interest in the application from Trinant Primary School - Lesotho Exchange visits because he had been involved with Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) on the application;
- Councillor G Hughes declared interests in the applications from Cascade Carving Club because he knew the club members and the class tutor and in the application from Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall through his association with Gelligaer Partnership.

2. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel meeting held on 19th November 2008 (minute nos. 1 - 8 on page nos. 1 - 4).

3. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report and that the net overspend this year so far was £1.043. This was partly accounted for by an increase in discretionary rate relief of 4.9% whereas this committee's budget allocated had increased by only 2%.

As a result, and to address this potential overspend, officers would report to the next meeting on a suggested range of revised criteria for dealing with applications for financial assistance including those from

- Non-Community First Partnerships.
- Individual applications from juniors and adults
- Organisations with and/or without their own premises.

All the above would be looked at within the context of what was affordable annually and within budget. Officers would also revise the application form asking applicants for details of financial assistance applied for and/or received from other funding sources.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given by the following applications for financial assistance. By way of correction it was stated that 12 not 24 new applications had been received.

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

• Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod	£500
• Cancer Lifeline Upper Rhymney Valley (CLURV)	£250
• Cascade Carving Club (1st application)	£100(£50+ £50)
• Cor Cwm Ni (1st application)	£140 (£70 +£70)
• Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall	£100
• Risca Millennium Committee	£100
• St Martins Ladies Fellowship (1st application)	£100 (£50 + £50)
• Tirphil Young at Heart	£50
• Friends of Ynysddu Youth	£100

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

- (a) Trinant Primary School – Lesotho Exchange Visits
- (b) Ynysddu Ladies Bowls Club.

RESOLVED that the application from Special Olympics GB – Brooklands ATC be agreed in principle but the amount of financial assistance be deferred until the final number of competitors was known and then the Head of Corporate Finance in

consultation with the Chairman be authorised to determine that amount.

5. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND

RESOLVED that in accordance with the previously agreed criteria, and where indicated, grants of either up to one third of costs or a maximum of £1,500.00, be made from the Welsh Church Act Fund to the following:-

- (a) St Margaret's Church, Blackwood (maximum grant)
- (b) Moriah Welsh Independent Chapel, Rhymney (maximum grant)
- (c) Hills Community Church, Aberbargoed (up to one third of costs)
- (d) St Michael's Church, Tirphil (up to one third of costs)
- (e) St Paul's Church, Newbridge (up to one third of costs)
- (f) St David's Church, Oakdale ((maximum grant) to be paid from next year's funding allocation)

6. CRITERIA FOR GRANT AID 2009/2010

Members noted the information detailed in the report and appendix regarding the criteria for grant aid applications in 2009/2010.

7. DECISIONS OF OFFICERS

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

8. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bedwas High School – European Studies Programme

Three pupils of Bedwas High School were undertaking the ASDAN International award and the European Studies Programme. They had been challenged to plan and organise a visit to a partner European School. The three pupils and one member of staff will be visiting a school in Sweden from 16th-19th April and assistance was sought with the cost of the trip. No amount has been specified, but flights and accommodation will cost £184 each.

RESOLVED that having regard to the decision taken on the application from Trinant Primary (on the basis that applications from council establishments are not considered) the application from Bedwas High School be refused.

9. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

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

- Bethel Evangelical Church, Nelson
- Beulah Baptist Church, Newbridge

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm.