



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 5:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, A. Blackman, D. Cullen, R.W. Gough, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), S. Grant (Finance Manager, Corporate Services)
and R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W. David, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes,
K. James, G. Oliver, K. Presley

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Councillor E.M. Aldworth declared interests in the application from Machen Over 50's Club (as she has assisted in funds applications) and in Craig y Rhacca Community Centre (as she is a member of the committee).
- (2) Councillor A. Blackman declared an interest in Nelson Community Centre as she is a member of the committee.
- (3) Councillor J.O. Evans declared interests in Oakdale and Penmaen Community Partnership (as he is a member of the partnership) and in Oakdale Community Centre (as he is the Chairman).
- (4) Councillor R.W. Gough declared an interest in the application from Manmoel Welfare Association because he had been advising the association on the subject of available funding.
- (5) Councillor M.J. Prew declared an interest in Caerphilly Rugby Club as he is a member of the club.

- (6) Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared interests in Cefn Hengoed Community Centre (as she is a member of the committee) and in Caerphilly & District Credit Union Ltd (as she is a member of the union).

2. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel meeting held on 13th July 2009 (minute nos. 1 - 12 on page nos. 1 - 4).

3. MEETING INTRODUCTION

The Head of Corporate Finance introduced the reports and summarised action taken by officers since the last meeting.

In the absence of the panel's Terms of Reference, it was agreed that the panel could only recommend amendments to the criteria at this stage. These amendments would be presented to a scrutiny committee (Regeneration and/or Policy and Resources) with Cabinet and/or Council taking the final decision. Members were advised legal services would be approached to establish the required formal procedure and, in accordance with the authority's policy, the necessary consultations would be carried out.

4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – AMENDMENTS TO CRITERIA

Consideration was given to the 2008/09 budget and the need to revise the criteria to assist the most vulnerable groups and individuals.

Members proposed the current general criteria for awarding financial assistance should be revised as follows:-

Annual Award	Current Amount	Proposed Amount
	£	£
(a) OAP Association with own building	250	250
(b) OAP Association without own building	130	100
(c) Junior Sports Club	45	45
(d) Individuals representing Wales at home	130	100
(e) Individuals representing Wales overseas	250	200
(f) Jazz Bands	70	50
(g) Choirs	70	50
(h) Scout/cubs/brownies/guides/boys brigade/crusaders	45	45
(i) St John Ambulance:-		
Cadets	70	70
Badgers	45	45
(j) Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA's with own premises	470	250
(k) Youth Associations without own premises	45	45
(l) Brass and Silver Bands	500	250
(m) Allotment Associations	50	50

In addition,

- (n) doubling up of first application awards to cease;
 (o) a £1000 maximum be applied to any applications outside of the criteria, including Credit Unions' applications to rate relief;
 (p) payments to the Sports Development Team for trophies etc to cease;

- (q) Newbridge Non-Community First Partnership to be encouraged to apply for support (as had the other partnerships);
- (r) future grants to non-community first partnerships to have a ceiling limit of £500 and be limited to one application every three years. Should the number of partnerships increase, the limit of £500 is to be reviewed;
- (s) applications be granted on a 'first come first served' basis within the available funds. Applications carried forward to following year once budget fully committed;
- (t) applicants be asked to supply financial statements including up-to-date bank statements (under 3 months of age);
- (u) applicants be asked to supply details of any other sources of funding.

5. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF – NEW CRITERIA IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to awards of discretionary rate relief to a number of voluntary and sporting organisations, in particular, those whom provide funding for projects outside the borough and in foreign countries.

Members proposed the current criteria for discretionary rate relief should be amended to ensure awards are only granted to organisations that benefit Caerphilly County Borough and its residents.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Consideration was given to the additional information relating to granted discretionary rate relief and the impact on the budget available for future applications for financial assistance.

It was agreed that officers would present a further report to the panel, to propose amendments to the criteria for awarding discretionary rate relief grants, based on the following steer:-

- (a) to apply a form of "means test". Therefore applicants are be asked to supply financial statements including up-to-date bank statements (under 3 months of age) and details of available capital;
- (b) applicants be asked to supply details of any other sources of funding;
- (c) possible exclusion of organisations with significant alternative sources of income/funding.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

7.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report.

7.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given by the following applications for financial assistance.

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

(a) Llanfach Village & Community Hall	£ 200.00
(b) Islwyn Canal Association	50.00
(c) Springfield Community Group	50.00
(d) Ystrad Fawr Juvenile Ballroom Team	90.00
(e) Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	100.00

(f) Smart Money Credit Union Ltd (formerly Caerphilly & District)	1000.00
(g) Crosskeys College Choral Society	50.00
(h) Arthritis Care, Ystrad Mynach	270.00
(i) Machen Over 50's Club	50.00
(j) Rhymney Valley Music Club	100.00
(k) Crosskeys Community Gardening Group	50.00
(l) Cefn Hengoed Ladies Friendship Club	50.00
(m) Britannia Community Association	50.00
(n) Bargoed, Aberbargoed & Gilfach Credit Union	397.31
(o) Cobden Street Allotments Association, Crosskeys	50.00
(p) Eisteddfod y Cymru 2009	100.00
(q) Rotary Club of Pontllanfraith	100.00
(r) Cyfeillion Bro Allta	50.00

7.2.2 RESOLVED that the following applications for financial assistance be approved, subject to confirmation that no funding had been (or is to be) received via "the Healthy Living Grant":-

(a) New Start 4 Life	£50.00
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7.2.3 RESOLVED for the reasons outlined at the meeting the following applications for financial assistance be refused:-

- (a) Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership
- (b) Girlguiding, Rhymney Valley Division
- (c) Manmoel Welfare Association
- (d) Stepping Stone Church, Aber Valley
- (e) Stepping Stone Church, Rhymney
- (f) Gilfach Fargod Primary – Friends of the School Association

7.2.4 RESOLVED that the following applications for financial assistance be refused, and the applicant be advised to apply for funding under the Welsh Church Fund:-

- (a) The Salvation Army, Risca Corps
- (b) Crosskeys Silver Band

7.3 Welsh Church Acts Fund

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

7.4 Trophies, Footballs, etc

RESOLVED for the reasons outlined at the meeting the award for trophies, footballs etc, be discontinued.

7.5 Decisions of Officers

Members noted that no applications had been processed during the financial year to date, due to the anticipated review of grant criteria.

The meeting closed at 6.23 p.m.