



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH APRIL 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

J.O. Evans - Chairman

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, A. Blackman, D. Cullen, R.W. Gough, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, K. Lloyd, G. Oliver, K. Presley, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), S. Grant (Finance Manager, Corporate Services), A. Morgan (Group Accountant, Revenue Advice and Support), R. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Bidgood, W. David, M.J. Prew

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman thanked all members present for attending the meeting, at what was a very busy time.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Councillor Mrs G. Oliver declared interests in the application from Pontlloftyn Acoustic Performing Arts (as she lives in the immediate area), she took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (2) Councillor K. Lloyd declared an interest in Kendon & Woodview Community Hall (as he helped the organisation with a GAVO grant application), he took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (3) Councillor J.O. Evans declared interests in Oakdale and Penmaen Community Partnership (as he is a member of the partnership), he took no part in the discussion or vote.

2. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 21st September 2009 (minute nos. 1 – 7, on page nos. 1 - 4).

3. MEETING INTRODUCTION / AMENDMENTS TO CRITERIA

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

Members were reminded, due to a budget shortfall, the panel had considered revising the criteria for financial assistance. Subsequently, as part of the 2010/2011 budget strategy, growth of £40k had been awarded. Officers also advised that legal services had confirmed that any changes to the criterion had to be decided by Cabinet, following any appropriate recommendation(s) from the panel.

The views of Members were sought as to whether they still wished to proceed with the previously agreed changes. While Members welcomed the additional funds and noted the budget was currently sufficient to grant all existing applications; concerns were raised that application numbers were lower than normal and a repeat of the budget pressures could easily reoccur next year. The Panel therefore requested officers prepare a report, based on previous discussions, to enable Members to make the necessary recommendations for changes to the criterion to Cabinet.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report.

4.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given by the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) The Canal Zoners	50.00
(b) Crosskeys and Pontywaun Partnership	50.00
(c) Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership	50.00
(d) Mener Iaith Sir Caerffili	100.00
(e) T n T School of Dance	90.00
(f) Bargoed and District Art Society	100.00
(g) Caerphilly Causeway Projects	100.00
(h) Friday Night Project	50.00
(i) Pontlottyn Acoustic Performing Arts	100.00
(j) Windsor School of Dance	90.00
(k) Islwyn Community Credit Union	123.53
(l) St Catherine's Ladies Bowling Club	100.00
(m) Kendon & Woodview Community Hall	50.00
(n) Fleur De Lys Local History Society	100.00
(o) Blackwood & District Amateur Radio Society	50.00
(p) POPSY (Parents of Partially Sighted & Blind Youngsters)	100.00
(q) Dolphin Swim School	200.00
(r) Western Valley Camera Club	50.00
(s) Creazione Dance Company	90.00

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

- (a) Wales Council for Deaf People
- (b) Llanmau Ltd – Emphasis Project
- (c) St David's Church Mother and Toddler Group
- (d) Risca Social Club
- (e) Rhys Coombs – Fund Raising

4.3 **General Criteria Awards**

Members noted and agreed the applications received in the course of the year, and the recommended award to be applied.

4.4 **Welsh Church Acts Fund**

Members noted the grants awarded by the panel, and subsequently by officers, in 2009/2010, in accordance with the agreed criteria.

4.5 **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 5.39 p.m.