



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY, 15TH JULY 2010 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D. Cullen, W. David, G.J. Hughes, K. James, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.M. Aldworth, Mrs A. Blackman, A.G. Higgs, G.D. Oliver

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Councillor K. James declared interests in Cwmcarn OAP Hall & Welfare Association (as he was a Trustee) and Islwyn Canal Association (as he sits on the Association as a council representative). He took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (2) Councillor D. Cullen declared interests in South Islwyn ROW Environment Group and Ynysddu Allotment Society (as he is the Chairman of both groups), he took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (3) Councillor J.O. Evans declared an interest in the application from Mr M F Pritchard (as he knows the applicant), he took no part in the discussion or vote. Councillor R. Bidgood presided as Chairman for this agenda item.
- (4) Councillor W. David declared an interest in the application from Anne Greenaway (as he knows the applicant), he took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (5) Councillor K. Lloyd declared an interest in Treowen & District Village Hall (as he had contacted GAVO on behalf of the applicant), he took no part in the discussion or vote.

2. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN

Councillor J.O. Evans was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor R. Bidgood was appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 28th April 2010 (minute nos. 1 - 4, on page nos. 1 - 3).

5. 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 that due to the previous 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 wished to review the level of Discretionary Rate Relief and to proceed with the previously agreed changes to the General Criteria. Members welcomed the additional funds and noted with declined application numbers, the budget was currently sufficient to grant all existing applications.

The Panel agreed to retain the status quo in regard to the levels of Discretionary Rate Relief and to proceed with the previously agreed changes to the General Criteria.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

6.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the statement of expenditure detailed within the report.

6.2 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given by the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) Risca Millennium Committee	100.00
(b) Rhymney Valley South Road Flying Club	100.00
(c) Royal British Legion (Newbridge Branch)	100.00
(d) Islwyn Canal Association	50.00
(e) Cambrian Educational Foundation	100.00
(f) Bargoed, Aberbargoed & Gilfach Credit Union	332.31
(g) Wyllie Residents Association	100.00
(h) South Islwyn ROW Environment Group	100.00
(i) Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum for Learning Disabilities	100.00

(j) St Catherine's Community Group	100.00
(k) Mr M F Pritchard	300.00

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

- (a) Malcolm Uphill Commemorative Committee
- (b) St Catherine's Community Group - Craft Class

6.3 General Criteria Awards

Officers advised Members that due to insufficient information at the time of reviewing the applications from Cwmcarn OAP Hall & Welfare Association and Gilfach Old Age Pensions Association, these had been incorrectly assessed as not having their own buildings. To rectify this in the future, the grant application form was to be amended to easily identify this. Members were asked to note the above Associations would therefore qualify for £250, rather than the amount indicated within Appendix 3 of the report.

Similarly Officers clarified that the application for Machen over 50's Club should be considered under different criteria than that indicated within the Appendix.

Subject to the amendments as detailed above, Members noted and agreed the applications received in the course of the year, and the award to be applied to each.

6.4 Welsh Church Acts Fund

The Panel noted the reduced number of received applications and Members expressed the view that should the number of applications continue to decline, consideration be given to review the Church Act Fund criteria to offer increased grant levels.

Members noted the grants awarded by Officers in accordance with the agreed criteria for 2010/2011.

6.5 Decisions of Officers

The report advised Members that no applications had yet been processed for 2010/2011.

Members noted and agreed the award of grants, to be released in the next two weeks, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor K. James advised the Panel of Cwmcarn Gymnastic Club's recent success. The club was formed in 1996 and had received funding from the Panel over the years.

On 19th June 2010 Wales took part in the Celtic Cup acrobatic Gymnastics competition. This is an international competition between Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Wales took a team of thirty gymnasts; ten of those were schoolgirls and boys from Cwmcarn Gymnastic Club. The Cwmcarn Gymnastic Club also provided the team manager, Mary Penny. Wales won the cup with the Cwmcarn members sweeping the board with excellent marks.

At the 2010 Welsh Acrobatic Gymnastic NDP Championship, Cwmcarn won eight gold medals and a bronze medal. They then went onto the British Championships where the club won two silver and a bronze medal.

The meeting closed at 5.32 pm.