



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON THURSDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2011 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

J.O. Evans - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, D. Cullen, K. James, K. Lloyd, Mrs G.D. Oliver, M.J. Prew, J.A. Pritchard

Together with:

S. Davies (GAVO Grants Co-ordinator), A. Morgan (Group Accountant, Revenue Advice and Support), R.J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Bidgood, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Carter, A.G. Higgs and G.J. Hughes

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received at the start and during the course of the meeting as follows:-

- (1) Councillor D. Cullen – as he is the Chairman of the South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group (11/P/14) and as he knows all the members of the Ynysddu Allotments Association (11/GTVS/43);
- (2) Councillor K. Lloyd – as he had been in communication with GAVO regarding the Kendon and Woodfieldside Community Hall (WCF18).

2. MINUTES

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 14th July 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 7, on page nos. 1 - 3).

3. MATTERS ARISING

Declarations of Interest (Minute Reference 1(3))

It was noted that Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver's declaration should read that she was as a Member of the Pontlottyn Old Age Pensioners Association (11/GVS/022) rather than the Gilfach Old Age Pensioners Association (11/GVS/032).

Welsh Church Acts Fund (Minute Reference 6.3.5)

Members were informed that Monmouthshire County Council had confirmed that payments could be made to allotments, subject to a lease on the land being present.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- 4.1 Members noted that with the carried forward balance from 2010-2011 of £75,393.75, the available budget for 2011-2012 is £153,200.95. Total amount requested, as detailed within the report, is £8,162.75.

Members voiced their concerns regarding the reduced number of applications received and the significant level of unspent monies each year. The Grants Co-ordinator advised that GAVO was to contact previous applicants and that there would shortly be a campaign to publicise the availability of grants. It was hoped these activities would encourage future applications.

The Group Accountant (Revenue Advice and Support) suggested a number of interim and long term solutions that could assist the expedient payment of awarded grants and help reduce any underspend. The Panel responded positively on the understanding that applications outside the general criteria would still be presented to the group for consideration.

In addition, Members requested that a list of all applications, agreed under the general criteria, be e-mailed to them, so they may notify officers of any declarations of interest.

It was agreed that the Group Account write a report for the Panel to consider increasing the value of grants for a one year period, with effect from April 2012. Consideration would also be given to revising the amount given to groups with a number of members, such as Scout Groups or sport teams. Additionally, Members agreed to promote the availability of financial assistance.

4.2 Welsh Church Acts Fund

Members were advised that additional funding of £30,697 had once again increased the normal annual allocation to give a fund for 2011-2012 of £76,742. However, following discussions with Monmouthshire County Council, the underspend from previous years (£93,829) was to be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget of £170,571.

The total of amount requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is £11,948.

Members reiterated their concerns regarding the reduced number of applications received and the significant level of underspend each year. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Group Account should approach Monmouth County Council to ascertain if the percentage of grant aided can be increased from a third to a half of the total cost for smaller projects and that grants for projects of £4,500 and over be increased from £1,500 to £2,000.

4.3 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) Islwyn Community Credit Union	347.75
(b) Friends of Ynysddu Youth	100.00
(c) South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group	100.00

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| (d) Rhymney Valley Music Club | 100.00 |
| (e) Friends of Jerusalem Churchyard | 50.00 |

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

- (a) Greater Bargoed Communities First Partnership
- (b) Bargoed & District YMCA

4.3.4 **General Criteria Awards**

Members noted and agreed the applications received in the course of the year, and the award to be applied to each as follows:

	£
(a) Cwmcarn Artistic/Acrobatics Club	180.00
(b) Heolddu Gymnastics	225.00
(c) Gilfach Old Peoples Welfare Committee	250.00
(d) Devils Martial Arts	180.00
(e) 3rd Caerphilly St Martins Brownies	90.00
(f) Blackwood Town Boys and Girls FC	180.00
(g) Brithdir 55 Club	130.00
(h) Blackwood Pensioners Group	130.00
(i) Ystrad Fawr Fantasia Team	90.00
(j) Ynysddu Allotments Association	50.00
(k) Ethan Kilby	250.00
(l) Ian Slade	130.00
(m) John Otter	130.00
(n) Lloyd Stephen Birt	250.00
(o) Elen Allen	250.00
(p) Christopher Belcher	250.00
(q) Kai Stroud	250.00
(r) Jack Dunn	130.00
(s) Philip Morgan	130.00
(t) Jason Lewis	250.00
(u) Joe Lewis	250.00
(v) James Date	250.00
(w) Geraint Heaney	250.00
(x) Benjamin Lee Goode	250.00
(y) Amber Murphy	250.00
(z) Shelby Leigh Short	130.00
(aa) Nia Catherine Smith	130.00
(ab) Seren Meredith Walters	250.00
(ac) Anne Greenaway	130.00

4.3.5 **Welsh Church Acts Fund**

Members noted the grants to be processed by GAVO, in accordance with the agreed criteria, for 2011-2012.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.