



## **GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK  
ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 5.00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

J.O. Evans - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, A.G. Higgs, K. James, K. Lloyd

Together with:

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

Also in attendance for the last item:

N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance)

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, R. Bidgood, D. Carter, D. Cullen, G.J. Hughes, Mrs G.D. Oliver, M.J. Prew and J.A. Pritchard

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES**

Members noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 13th October 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 4, on page nos. 1 - 3).

### **3. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

3.1 Members noted the available budget for 2011-2012 together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report.

### 3.2 Welsh Church Acts Fund

Members were advised that due to additional funding and a carry forward balance from the previous year, the total fund allocation for 2011-2012 is £170,573. Members noted the available budget together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report.

### 3.3 Applications for Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) Caerphilly CBC Access Group	100.00
(b) Ystrad Fawr 4 Couple Junior Team (Aurora)	270.00
(c) Friends of Blackwood Communications Group	100.00
(d) CancerCareline	500.00
(e) Caerphilly CB Model Railway Society	100.00
(f) Eisteddfod y Cymoedd	100.00
(g) Valleys Gymnastics Academy	360.00
(h) Bargoed and District Art Society	100.00
(i) Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	100.00
(j) Bedwas Writers Circle	100.00
(k) Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre	95.00
(l) The Zone	130.00
(m) 1st Fleur de Lys Brownies	45.00
(n) Caerphilly Parents and Carers Forum for Learning Disabilities	100.00

#### 3.3.2 RESOLVED that for the reason outlined at the meeting, the follow application for financial assistance be refused and the applicant be referred to alternative funding arrangements:

- (a) Cylch Meithrin Cwm Gwyddon

#### 3.3.3 RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following application for financial assistance be refused, pending the receipt of further information:

- (a) Caerphilly Disadvantaged Christmas Party

#### 3.3.4 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) Ravenswood Allotment Society	50.00
(b) 1st Fleur de Lys Rainbows	45.00
(c) 1st Ystrad Mynach Scouts (Cubs Tuesday)	135.00
(d) Ystrad Mynach OAP	130.00
(e) St Catherine's Community Group OAP	130.00
(f) 1st Trinant Brownies	45.00
(g) 1st Ystrad Mynach Scouts (Scouts)	135.00
(h) 1st Ystrad Mynach Scouts (Cubs Thursday)	135.00
(i) Trinant Monday Club	130.00
(j) Aber Valley Community Allotment	45.00
(k) 1st Trinant Rainbows	45.00
(l) Crumlin OAP	130.00
(m) Islwyn Gymnastics Club	180.00
(n) Cwrt Rawling Football Team	450.00

(o)	Oakdale Silver Band	500.00
(p)	Molly Ann Thomas	130.00
(q)	Niamh Olivia Quinn	130.00
(r)	Malcolm Allen	250.00
(s)	Jonathan Eke	130.00
(t)	Terry Collier	130.00
(u)	Roger Jones	130.00

### 3.3.5 Welsh Church Acts Fund

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

## 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – AMENDMENTS TO CRITERIA

The report, in response to a request by Members at the meeting held on 13th October 2011, suggested a range of revised criteria and an increase to the amounts awarded within the general criteria and Welsh Church Fund (WCF), to make best use of the available budget.

Members discussed the range of options available and officers responded to general questions. The challenge to produce a definitive criteria was acknowledged, in particular in regard to clubs with varying numbers of members and Members agreed that the proposals within the report were reasonable, with the proviso that it can be reviewed, if considered necessary.

Members highlighted the vast range of organisations that could qualify for assistance and the need to assist as many of them as possible. Should it not be possible to award financial assistance, organisations should be directed to alternative funding sources.

Officers confirmed that there was no individual limit on a Welsh Church Fund award, and a further discussion followed to establish an agreed revised maximum grant allowance.

The Panel noted the report and agreed the following:

- (1) support for the change to operational procedures relating to awards under the General Criteria, as detailed within the report;
- (2) support for a variable criteria in regard to junior sports clubs and scouts/cubs/brownies/guides/boys brigade/crusaders, as detailed within the report;
- (3) the Welsh Church Act Fund be amended to reflect the following:
  - (i) A grant of no more than £2000 to be given to partly fund projects of £6000 and over;
  - (ii) Smaller projects less than £6000 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost.
- (4) the above changes to take effect from 1st April 2012.

## 5. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT UPDATE

The Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) Grants Co-ordinator withdrew from the meeting at this time and the Head of Corporate Finance arrived to present Members with an update on the service level agreement between GAVO and Caerphilly CBC.

A full discussion, in relation to the administration of the voluntary sector grant and WCF, followed. In particular, Members debated the level of service received and the added value to the service, since 1st April 2011.

The Panel unanimously agreed that unfortunately due to a combination of a reduced level of service compared to the Authority's in-house service and the fact that there had been little value added, officers were instructed to terminate the SLA.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN