



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY, 19TH JULY 2012 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver – Chairman
Councillor D.G. Carter – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, C.J. Cuss, A. Lewis, R.W. Gough, C. Hawker, Ms J.G. Jones,
K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew, Mrs J. Summers

Together with:

N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant -
Financial Advice and Support), G. Elliott (Communities First Finance Assistant), R.J. Thomas
(Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Havard, A.G. Higgs and R. Saralis

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor D.G. Carter was appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Councillor L. Ackerman declared interests in Newbridge Community Theatre Group (as the applicant was a family member), Newbridge Online (as the applicant was a family member), and Rhymney Valley Young at Heart (as she knows the applicant). She took no part in the discussions or votes.

- (2) Councillor D.G. Carter declared an interest in TARAGGAN - Tenants and Residents Association Green Gym and Nursery Education Centre (as the secretary is a very close friend). He took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (3) Councillor R.W. Gough declared an interest in Rhymney Valley Young at Heart (as he knows the applicant). He took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (4) Councillor Ms J.G. Jones declared an interest in Cwmfelinfach Allotments and Leisure Garden (as an allotment holder). She took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (5) Councillor K. Lloyd declared interests in Trinant Communities First Board (as he is a member of the partnership), Pentwyn and Trinant Allotment Association (as an allotment holder), and Rhymney Valley Young at Heart (as he knows the applicant). He took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (6) Councillor M.J. Prew declared an interest in Rhymney Valley Young at Heart (as he knows the applicant). He took no part in the discussion or vote.

4. MINUTES

Members received and noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 8th March 2012 (minute nos. 1-4, on page nos. 1-4).

5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

5.1 Introduction

The Head of Corporate Finance introduced the Panel to Mr D. Roberts and Ms G. Elliott and she informed Members that they were the lead officers for grant applications/awards.

5.2 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the available budget for 2012-2013, together with the total amounts requested, and concerns were raised over the sustainability of the generous criteria introduced in April 2012.

Consequently Members agreed to revert back to the former criteria for awards. The reversion was to apply to applications received on and after 20th July 2012.

In addition, Members requested information be brought before the Panel detailing companies in receipt of Discretionary Rate Relief. Officers advised that should any amendment to the rate be made, there was a legal duty to advise businesses 4 years in advance.

5.3 Welsh Church Acts Fund

Members noted the total available budget for the current year was £190,405.00. This was made up from the budget for 2012-2013 of £77,084.00 together with underspends from previous years of £113,321.00.

However, Members were advised that due to the present economic climate, future allocations could be reduced considerably.

Members noted the available budget together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report.

5.4 Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) Newbridge Online	100.00
(b) Nelson Indoor Bowls	500.00
(c) Croeso Christian Bookshop & Coffee Shop Ltd	250.00
(d) Bobarth Children's Therapy Centre Wales	200.00
(e) Fleur De Lys Institute	500.00
(f) TARAGGAN (Tenants & Residents Association Green Gym & Nursery Education Centre)	930.00

At this point of the meeting, Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver made her apologies as she had a previous commitment and left the meeting. Councillor D.G. Carter presided as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

(g) Activity Club	280.65
(h) Pentwynmawr Presbyterian Church	569.40
(i) Snap Cymru	500.00
(j) Trinant Community Centre	200.00
(k) Cascade Methodist Church	200.00
(l) Club 707	400.00
(m) Dots and Tots	400.00
(n) St Catherine's Garden Group	400.00
(o) Mid Valleys East (Argoed Ward) Art Society	276.40
(p) V-Fit Club	400.00
(q) Play Service, GAVO	400.00
(r) Newbridge Community Theatre Group	250.00
(s) Friends of Inspire	400.00
(t) Rhymney Valley South Road Flying Club	200.00
(u) Cambrian Educational Foundation	200.00
(v) SYDIC - Senghneydd Youth Drop in Centre	500.00
(w) Fitzroy Lodge Residents Association	400.00
(x) St Andrews Church, Penyrheol	400.00
(y) Health Challenge Trinant	400.00
(z) Rhymney Valley Young at Heart	400.00
(aa) The Chill Club	300.00

5.4.2 RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the follow application for financial assistance be refused:

- (a) Cardiff University
- (b) Sophie George

5.4.3 RESOLVED that for the reason outlined at the meeting, the follow application for financial assistance be referred to the Welsh Church Act Fund Awards, but should this be unsuccessful, officers be given delegated powers to award the following amount:

- (a) Trethomas Amalgamated Allotments - £400.00

5.4.4 RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following applications for financial assistance be deferred, pending the receipt of further information:

- (a) Caerphilly Disadvantage Children's Project
- (b) Argoed Kids Rock

5.4.5 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria, and to be processed by officers.

5.4.6 Applications for Financial Assistance: Welsh Church Acts Fund Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria, and to be processed by officers. Officers confirmed funds are released upon receipt of the organisations/groups expenditure.

Members also noted that officers had rejected the application by Machen Rugby Football Club, as it fell outside of the agreed criteria.

5.5 Revised Terms and Conditions : Welsh Church Acts Fund Awards

Members noted the revised practices and the proposed revised terms and conditions. In order to safeguard the financial situation of the funds, the Panel approved their adoption.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.