



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

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT 5.00 PM**

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**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, D. Havard,  
K. Lloyd

**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**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.G. Higgs, Ms. J. Jones, M.J. Prew,  
R. Saralis, Mrs. J. Summers

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

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

- (1) Councillor Miss L. Ackerman declared interests in the Islwyn Canal Association (12/P046) as she is a member of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm Working Group; John Otter (12/GC064) as there was a possibility that she knew the applicant; and Theatr Fynnon (12/P050) as she knows people who participate within the theatre group. She took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (2) Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared an interest in the Bargoed and District Art Society (12/P052) as she knows a number of people involved in the society. She took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (3) Councillor D.G. Carter declared an interest in Bargoed Male Voice Choir (12/GC056) as he is a member of the choir. He took no part in the discussion.

- (4) Councillor R. Gough declared an interest in the Discretionary Rate Relief awarded to Ystrad Mynach College (appendix 1) as he is on the Board of Governors. He took no part in the discussion regarding this section of the appendix.
- (5) Councillor D. Havard declared interests in the Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Beekeepers Association (12/P049) as he knows the applicant, and Bedwas Writers' Circle (12/P053) as he is a prospective member. He took no part in the discussions or votes.
- (6) Councillor A. Lewis declared an interest in Croespenmaen Residents and Tenants Association (12/P037) as he attends their meetings. He took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (7) Councillor K. Lloyd declared an interest in Croespenmaen Residents and Tenants Association (12/P037) as he attends their meetings. He took no part in the discussion or vote.

## **2. MINUTES**

Members received and noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 19th July 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 5, on page nos. 1 - 4).

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

### **3.1 Statement of Expenditure**

Members noted the available budget for 2012-2013 together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report.

Further information was sought in regard to how Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) works and the organisations in receipt of DRR awards, as detailed in appendix 1. Officers agreed to prepare a detailed report for presentation at the next meeting of the Panel.

### **3.2 Welsh Church Acts Fund**

Members were reminded that due to underspend being carried forward from previous years, the total fund allocation for 2012-2013 is £190,405.00. Members noted the available budget together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report, and raised concerns that allocations in the future could be considerably reduced. Members asked that officers contact Monmouthshire County Council to establish exactly why allocation levels may reduce.

In addition, Members asked that officers promote the Welsh Church Acts Fund within Newslite and consider enclosing the fund's promotional leaflet within envelopes containing National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) bills.

### **3.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards**

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance.

- 3.3.1 Members were asked to note that the Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Beekeepers Association had sought an award of £5,000.00 and not £25,000.00 as listed on appendix 2 to the report.

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

	£
(a) Caerphilly Disadvantage Children's Project	100.00
(b) The Bardic Writers' Circle	100.00

(c)	Britannia Community Association	100.00
(d)	Rhymney Valley Music Club	200.00
(e)	Croespenmaen Residents & Tenants Association	100.00
(f)	New Start 4 Life	100.00
(g)	Phillipstown Homing Society	100.00
(h)	Bargoed Tai Chi Group	100.00
(i)	Islwyn Canal Association	500.00
(j)	Aber Valley Brave Hearts	200.00
(k)	Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Beekeepers Association	500.00
(l)	Theatr Fynnon	200.00
(m)	Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	150.00
(n)	Bargoed and District Art Society	200.00
(o)	Bedwas Writers' Circle	100.00

3.3.2 RESOLVED that for the reason outlined at the meeting, the follow application for financial assistance be approved and the applicant be referred to alternative funding arrangements (Welsh Church Acts Fund):

	£
(a) Caerphilly CB Model Railway Society	200.00

3.3.3 RESOLVED that for the reason outlined at the meeting, the follow application for financial assistance be refused:

(a) Cwmfelinfach Primary School Parents and Friends Association

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

- (a) Ysgwyddgwyn Sunday School
- (b) The Zone
- (c) Kids Cancer Charity/Christian Lewis Trust
- (d) Cole Court Gardening Group
- (e) Friends of Blackwood Communication Group

Members agreed that upon receipt of the additional information, the Principal Group Accountant - Financial Advice and Support contact them via e-mail to obtain their consensus for future action, including possible approval for financial assistance, in order to expedite the application process.

### 3.3.5 Applications for Financial Assistance: Deferred from Last Meeting

Members were advised that 'Argoed Kids Rock' did not respond to requests for further information. Therefore no award has been made and the application had not been brought forward for discussion at this meeting.

### 3.3.6 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting, as listed on appendix 3 to the report, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria, and to be processed by officers.

### 3.3.7 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.

**3.4 Application Forms for Financial Assistance**

Members endorsed the new application forms for both financial assistance and the Welsh Church Fund and supported, in particular, the inclusion of possible random audit checks. The Panel agreed to send any additional comments to the Principal Group Accountant at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting closed at 6.15 p.m.