



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

L. Ackerman, C.J. Cuss, A. Lewis, R.W. Gough, C. Hawker, D. Havard, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew,
R. Saralis, Mrs. J. Summers

Together with:

N. Scammell (Acting Corporate Services Director), D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant -
Financial Advice and Support), J. Carpenter (Council Tax and NNDR Manager), G. Edwards
(Senior Council Tax/NNDR Officer), R.J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Blackman, A.G. Higgs and
Mrs. E. Stenner

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed officers Mr John Carpenter (Council Tax and NNDR Manager) and
Mr Glenn Edwards (Senior Council Tax/NNDR Officer) to the meeting.

Thanks and tributes were also given to Ms Rebecca Thomas, (Committee Services Officer)
who was attending her last meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (1) Councillor C.J. Cuss declared interests in the St John's Pontllanfraith Division
(12/GC090) and St John Cymru Wales Bedwas Division (12/GC101) as he is the
council representative's for St. Johns Cymru Wales. There was no discussion or vote
on this agenda item as it had been presented for information purposes only.

- (2) Councillor R.W. Gough declared an interest in the Llanbradach Photo Editing Club (12/P056) as his wife is a member of the club. He left the room during the course of the debate.

During the course of the debate, in relation to Discretionary Rate Relief, Councillors M.J. Prew, L. Ackerman and D.G. Carter advised they were members of their local rugby clubs and Councillor R.W. Gough advised he is a governor of The College Ystrad Mynach. As discussions were of a general nature, there was no need to declare interests.

Councillors D.G. Carter declared an interest in the Community History Group, Bargoed (12/P060) and K. Lloyd declared an interest in Trinant Children's Community Café (12/P063) as these used to be sub-groups of groups they were previously involved with. It was confirmed that neither Member needed to declare an interest due to the tenuous nature of these links.

The Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support) declared an interest in the Nelson Cavaliers Football Club (12/GC103) as his son plays for the team.

2. MINUTES

Members received and noted the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 26th November 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 3, on page nos. 1 - 4).

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Deferred Applications for Financial Assistance (Minute Reference 3.3.4)

Members noted that, in accordance with Members' instructions, additional information had been requested from a number of organisations. Where information had not been received, grants had not been awarded.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

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

The Panel requested officers carry forward and ring fence the remaining balance to next year.

4.2 Discretionary Rate Relief

Councillors D.G. Carter and M.J. Prew left the room during the course of the debate due to their association with their local rugby clubs (Bargoed and Caerphilly respectively).

Members sought clarification as to the Council's policy relating to the amount of discretionary rate relief paid to the county borough's colleges and the larger, professional rugby clubs.

Officers advised that colleges qualified for payment as they were set up as charities and treated as occupiers of the premises. An award of 80% rate relief was therefore mandatory. The remaining 20% was discretionary and criteria led. However, of that 20% the Welsh Assembly contributed 25% and the local authority contributed 75%. Members therefore noted that should they wish to amend the current policy, this would only affect this small percentage.

The policy relating to the amount of rate relief eligible to rugby clubs was established at least 10 years ago and had regard to whether the sport/recreational facility also had a bar facility. This had to be viewed in tandem with the rateable value of the premises, and accompanying £5000 rateable value threshold. Members were advised that if there was no bar, such as a boxing club, an award of 100% tended to be given. In addition, depending upon the size of the rugby club, a number of criteria elements and different pieces of legislation would apply; for example profit making clubs were excluded.

Members raised concerns that organisations with a healthy turnover and available funds could be eligible for monies and therefore smaller organisations could be at a disadvantage.

It was agreed that officers should prepare a report for the next meeting of the Panel, giving further details for the colleges and certain types of rugby clubs. Officers highlighted that should the Panel wish to amend the current policy, a recommendation would be required to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and a further referral to Cabinet for final determination. In addition, significant notice would have to be given to recipients.

In the interim, officers would circulate a full list of discretionary rate recipients and should any Members wish a specific entry to be included within the report, officers should be informed at the earliest opportunity.

4.3 **Welsh Church Acts Fund**

Members were reminded that with a carry forward balance from previous years, the total available balance for 2012-2013 is £190,405.00, It was noted however, that due to the current economic climate, the provisional allocation for 2013-2014 will be £40,048.00. Monmouthshire CBC were yet to confirm if any unspent monies from 2012-2013 could be carried forward.

Members noted the available budget together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report. In addition, it was suggested that GAVO be advised of the significantly reduced 2013-2014 budget.

4.4 **Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards**

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance.

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

	£
(a) GlynDeri Bonsai Club	100.00
(b) CALON	100.00
(c) Llanbradach Photo Editing Club	100.00
(d) Community History Group, Bargoed	100.00
(e) Ruperra Conservation Trust	100.00
(f) Britannia, Fleur de Lys and Pengam Community Group	100.00
(g) Trinant Children's Community Café	200.00

Councillor D.G. Carter left the room during the course of the debate due to his association with the Community History Group, Bargoed; and Councillor K. Lloyd left the room during the course of the debate due to his association with Trinant Children's Community Café.

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

- (a) Bargoed Yoga Group

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

- (a) The Parent Network - CCB
- (b) Eisteddfod y Cymoedd

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.

4.4.4 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members sought clarification as to the award to Darren Morgan (12/GC085) and whether he had applied in a professional or amateur capacity. Officers advised they would review the application and criteria, and update Members accordingly.

Subject to the comment above, Members noted the following applications, received since the last meeting, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria, and to be processed by officers:-

	£
(a) Sherry Baby Formation Team	45.00
(b) Heol Fargoed Allotments Association	50.00
(c) St Martins Ward OAP Caerphilly	130.00
(d) Connie Francis	250.00
(e) Darren Morgan	250.00
(f) Cwmcarn OAP	25.00
(g) Denise Molan	130.00
(h) Anthony Tuffin	130.00
(i) 1st Ystrad Mynach Girl Guides	90.00
(j) St John's Pontllanfraith Division	70.00
(k) Shaunna Ryan	250.00
(l) Lewis Ryan	250.00
(m) Caerphilly Inline Roller Hockey Club	45.00
(n) Mynyddislwyn Community Choir (Male Choir)	70.00
(o) Luke Vokes	130.00
(p) Ian Henderson	130.00
(q) Ian Sargeant	250.00
(r) Jay Davies	130.00
(s) Pamela Penrose	130.00
(t) Jasmine Szade	250.00
(u) St John Cymru Wales Bedwas Division	70.00
(v) Tomas Davies-Parfitt	250.00
(w) Nelson Cavaliers Football Club	45.00
(x) Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force	45.00
(y) Lisa Darby's Elite Dance School	90.00

4.4.5 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.

5. ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to the following applications for financial assistance, received since the report was published.

5.1 Additional Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

5.1.1 Members noted the following applications received, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria, and to be processed by officers:-

		£
12/GC106	Richie Oliver representing Wales at Home	130.00
12/GC107	Lee Loftus representing Wales at Home	130.00
12/GC108	Ashfield Road Allotment, Allotments	50.00
12/GC109	Alfred St Allotment, Allotments	50.00
12/GC110	Morgan Rhys James representing Wales Aboard	250.00
12/GC111	Liam Cox representing Wales Aboard	250.00
12/GC112	Paul Collict representing Wales at Home	130.00
12/GC113	Malika Rezougui representing Wales at Home	130.00
12/GC114	Oakdale Silver Band	500.00

The meeting closed at 5.55 p.m.