



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON MONDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver - Chairman
Councillor R.W. Gough - Vice Chairman

Councillors:

L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, D. Havard, A.G. Higgs, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd,
M.J. Prew, R. Saralis, Mrs. J. Summers.

Together with:

D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant - Financial Advice and Support), G. Elliott
(Communities First Finance Assistant), S. M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor C. J. Cuss and Mr S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance).

2. 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 an interest in the following applications : Caerphilly Causeway Prospects (13/P028), Friends of Navigation (13/P003) and Lee Walker (13/GC067) and left the meeting while the applications were discussed.
- (2) Councillor Mrs A. Blackman and Mr D. Roberts declared an interest in the application: from Nelson Cavaliers Football Team (13/PO18).
- (3) Councillor A. Lewis declared an interest in the following applications: Friends of Navigation (13/P003), Lee Walker (13/GC067) and Darren Morgan (13/GC066) and left the meeting while the applications were discussed.
- (4) Councillors R.W. Gough and M. Prew declared an interest in the application from Friends of Navigation (13/P003) and left the meeting while the application was discussed.

- (5) Councillor K. Lloyd declared an interest in the following applications: Friends of Navigation (13/P003) and Lee Walker (13/GC067) and left the meeting while the applications were discussed.

3. MINUTES

The Panel received and approved the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 11th July 2013 (minute nos. 1-7; page nos. 1-3).

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

The Panel noted the statement of expenditure set out in the report and the balance remaining.

In terms of the report requested at a previous meeting of the Panel, Members were informed that the Council's policy relating to applications from organisations for discretionary rate relief was being looked at as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Reference was made to other grants that are available to organisations and individuals and to the possibility of there being duplication in some areas. It was agreed that officers would seek further information on this matter and report back to the next meeting.

4.2 Welsh Church Act Fund

Members noted the Welsh Church Act Fund applications received and approved by officers since the last meeting in accordance with the agreed criteria as set out in Appendix 3. The total allocated amounts to £22,945.20. Monmouthshire County Council have confirmed that underspends from previous years can be carried forward resulting in a total available budget for 2013/14 of £166,291.00.

The amount approved and reported to the last meeting of the panel was £6,000. To date none of the approved grants have been claimed. Successful applicants have a period of 18 months from approval to spend and claim the grant. Some organisations have now exceeded this timescale and as a result letters will be sent to these organisations advising them the grant has been withdrawn. A full list will be available at the next meeting.

Members noted the information and acknowledged the need to promote the fund and encourage more applications.

4.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards

Members were asked to consider the applications listed in Appendix 1 to the report and to make appropriate recommendations to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance for approval.

RECOMMENDED that the following applications for financial assistance be referred to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance for approval:-

	£
(a) Oasis Christian Centre	50.00
(b) Mid Valleys East (Argoed Ward) Art Society	260.00
(c) Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	200.00
(d) Pen y Dre Tenants and Residents Association	100.00
(e) St Catherine's Community Group	100.00
(f) Caerphilly & District Floral Society	200.00
(g) Cascade Methodist Church	200.00

(h)	Ty Sign & Local Communities Partnership	200.00
(i)	Gwent Defibbers	100.00
(j)	Crafty Cotton Club	250.00
(k)	Helping Hands (Rhymney Cancer Self Help Group)	250.00
(l)	Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	150.00
(m)	Friends of Navigation	500.00

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following organisations be advised to apply to Sport Wales for Community Chest funding.

- (a) Nelson Cavaliers Football Team
- (b) McClaren FC

4.4 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed that a special meeting of the Panel would be arranged in the New Year in order to review the criteria for assessing applications received by the Council for financial assistance.

The meeting closed at 5.55 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN