



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2014 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A. Lewis,
K. Lloyd, R. Saralis.

Together with:

S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance), D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant -
Financial Advice and Support), G. Elliott (Communities First Finance Assistant), R. Barrett
(Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A.G. Higgs, M.J. Prew,
Mrs E. Stenner and Mrs J. Summers.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair advised Members that clarification regarding declarations of interest had been
sought from the Interim Monitoring Officer and that Members were only required to declare an
interest if they were to directly benefit from the granting of a Panel Award.

Declarations of interest were received at the start of the meeting as follows: -

- (1) Councillor D.G Carter declared an interest in the application from Home Start
Caerphilly (13/P035) as there is a possibility of the organisation being selected as the
Mayor's Charity for 2014/15. He took no part in the discussion or vote.
- (2) Councillor D.G Carter declared an interest in Bargoed Male Voice Choir (13/GC079),
as he is a member of the choir. There was no discussion or vote on this agenda item
as it had been presented for information purposes only.
- (3) Councillor D. Havard declared an interest in 2nd Caerphilly Guides (13/GC068), as he
is the Chair of the local Scouts Group. There was no discussion or vote on this
agenda item as it had been presented for information purposes only.

The Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support) declared an interest in Nelson Cavaliers Football Club (13/P018) as his son plays for the team.

3. MINUTES – 25TH NOVEMBER 2013

The Panel received and approved the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 25th November 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 4; page nos. 1 - 3).

It was confirmed that declarations already recorded in the minutes would remain, as they were valid at the time of the meeting. However, Members would not be required to make future declarations of interest regarding these organisations if they were not involved with them.

Officers clarified that due to work pressures arising from financial year end, the full list of unclaimed grant awards for the Welsh Church Act Fund was not yet available and would be presented at the next meeting.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members' attention was directed to the criteria for assessing applications received by the Council for financial assistance. The Panel were of the view that a Task and Finish Group, made up of Members and Officers from the Panel, needed to be established in order to undertake a structured review of the criteria. Initial arrangements were put in place for the establishment of the Group, and it was confirmed that the findings of the Group would be brought back to the Panel for further discussion.

The Panel noted the statement of expenditure set out in the report and the balance remaining, and noted the indicative budget allocation as outlined in 4.1.5 of the report.

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 4. The total allocated amounts to £5,719.33. Members also noted the indicative budget allocation as outlined in 4.2.4 of the report.

The amounts approved and reported to the last meeting of the Panel for this financial year amount to £28,945.20 and to date £12,545.06 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 may have exceeded this timescale and as a result letters will be sent to these organisations advising them the grant has been withdrawn. When this process has been completed, a list will be circulated at the next Panel meeting.

Members noted the process and the information contained within the report.

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 under delegated powers:-

(a)	Friends of Blackwood Communication Group	£ 200.00
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(b)	Bedwas Writers Circle	100.00
(c)	Rhymney Ladies Flower Guild	100.00
(d)	Pontlottyn Art Group	100.00
(e)	Tabernacle Baptist Church, Newbridge	250.00
(f)	Bargoed & District Art Society	100.00
(g)	Home Start Caerphilly	500.00
(h)	Penuel Chapel, Rhymney	250.00
(i)	The Zone	200.00
(j)	Blackwood Little Theatre	500.00
(k)	Oakdale Racing Pigeon Club	200.00
(m)	Nelson Cavaliers Football Team	100.00
(n)	McClaren FC	100.00

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

- (a) Help Us 2 Help Africa

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following applications for financial assistance be refused:-

- (a) Caerphilly & District Twinning Association
- (b) Phoenix Club

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.

The meeting closed at 6.06 pm.

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

CHAIR