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Date: 16th March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 23rd March, 2016** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 Declarations of interest- Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.	
To receive and note the following minutes:-	
3 Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 25th November 2016.	1 - 2

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Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



To receive and consider the following report(s) from the Acting Director of Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer: -

4 Applications for Financial Assistance.

3 - 14

Circulation:

Councillors L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, R.W. Gough (Vice Chair), D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, Mrs G.D. Oliver (Chair), M.J. Prew, R. Saralis and Mrs E. Stenner

And Appropriate Officers



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Carter, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A. Lewis and M.J. Prew.

Together with:

S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant - Financial Advice and Support), G. Elliot (Communities First Finance Assistant), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor E. Stenner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 15TH JULY 2015

The Panel received and approved the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 15th July 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 7).

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the budget available for 2015-2016 as £60,044.51, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief and budget carried forward. If all awards in the report are agreed the remaining budget would be £53,034.51.

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 £6,356.67.

Members sought clarification on the criteria for the grant funding and it was noted that the criteria was not solely limited to Church/Chapels. A further report would be presented to the Panel, which outlines the criteria for the grant funding and Members were invited to sign post any local organisations that may be eligible for the grant.

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 Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval.

RECOMMENDED that the following applications for financial assistance be referred to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers:-

	£
(a) Friends of Navigation Colliery, Crumlin	£200.00
(b) Cambrian Foundation for Deaf Children	£200.00
(c) Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	£100.00
(d) Rhymney Valley Music Club	£200.00
(e) Gelligaer Historical Society	£200.00
(f) Valleys Healing and Life	£100.00

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.

A Member sought clarification on the category for 'Sporting Individual Representing Country', and whether there is a stipulation within criteria that the individuals are to be amateurs in their field. Officers highlighted that the current criteria does not require for individuals to be amateurs, however, as per Panel request, the criteria will be amended and future applications would be considered for amateurs only.

The meeting closed at 5.22 p.m.

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

CHAIR



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 23RD MARCH 2016

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Panel with the applications for financial assistance received to date for the current financial year.
- 1.2 To provide details of indicative budget allocations for the 2016/17 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises Panel members of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the “Welsh Church Fund” and provides details of applications received.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Voluntary and Community Sector organisations make an important contribution to public service provision across the borough and are key participants in the Community Strategy implemented through the Single Integrated Plan “Caerphilly Delivers.” The Single Integrated Plan has the following priority outcomes: Prosperous Caerphilly; Safer Caerphilly; Learning Caerphilly and Healthier Caerphilly.

4. REPORT

4.1 Assistance To Voluntary Sector Budget

- 4.1.1 The Panel’s budget for 2015/2016 is as follows:-

Budget 2015-16	£229,048.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	£252,088.45
Remaining Budget	(23,040.45)
Carry forward balance from 2014-15	£90,973.56
Total Available Budget 2015-16	£67,933.11
Total 2015-16 Grants awarded to date	£14,500.00
Balance Remaining	£53,433.11

- 4.1.2 The projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2015-16 is £252,088.45. This is £23,040.45 above the available budget. As agreed at previous panel meetings the carry forward from previous years of £90,973.56 will be used to fund projects for 2015-16. To date grant awards total £14,500.00. Allowing for the projected overspend on the Discretionary Rate Relief the balance available for schemes is £53,433.11.
- 4.1.3 The total amount requested in respect of the applications listed in Appendix 1 is **£980.00 (2 No.)**. These applications do not meet the criteria as set out in Appendix 4. Panel Members are asked to consider these applications and make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers.
- 4.1.4 Appendix 2 details those applications that meet the criteria out set in Appendix 4 that have been approved by officers (but not actioned). These total **£2,440.00 (17 No.)**.
- 4.1.5 The balance remaining if all grants requested are awarded as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 will be £50,013.11. This balance will now be carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.
- 4.1.6 Any further applications received before the 31st March 2016 will now be considered in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 4.1.7 The indicative budget allocation for 2016/17 has been agreed at £173,048, of which the projected Discretionary Rate Relief is £157,312.01. This leaves a projected budget allocation of £15,735.99 (which will increase by the final balance to be carried forward from 2015/16).

Budget 2015-16	229,048.00
Less Agreed Savings as per the Budget Report agreed by Council on 24/02/16	(56,000.00)
Budget Estimate for 2016-17	173,048.00
Less Discretionary Rate Relief (Estimated)	157,312.01
Balance Remaining	15,735.99

- 4.1.8 As previously agreed by the Panel grants awarded during the 2016/17 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

4.2 Welsh Church Act Fund

- 4.2.1 At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that the following criteria would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Fund:-
- (i) A grant of no more than £2,000 to be given to partly fund projects of £6,000 and over;
 - (ii) Smaller projects less than £6,000 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost;
 - (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred;
 - (iv) No organisation is allowed to apply in consecutive years.
- 4.2.2 At the meeting of 13th July 2009 Members agreed that in future, officers would approve applications meeting the Welsh Church Act Fund Criteria, using delegated powers. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.
- 4.2.3 Caerphilly County Borough Council has received written confirmation from Monmouthshire CC that the 2015/16 budget allocation will be **£49,334.00**. Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that the underspends from previous years of **£155,235.00** can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of **£204,569.00**.

Budget 2015-16	£49,334.00
Carry forward balances	£155,235.00
Total Available Budget 2015-16	£204,569.00
Total 2015-16 Grants awarded to date	£22,571.67
Balance Remaining	£181,997.33

4.2.4 Details of applications received since the last meeting are set out in **Appendix 3**. The total of amounts requested in accordance with the agreed criteria is **£7,479.00 (4 No.)**.

4.2.5 If all awards spend to their maximum allocation there will be a balance of £174,518.33 remaining.

4.2.6 We have been advised by Monmouthshire County Council that the provisional allocation for 2016-17 will be £61,600 i.e. an increase of £12,266 on this year's allocation. We have also been advised that we will be allowed to carry-forward the unspent allocations.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications to this report so no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS.

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider the applications contained in Appendix 1 and make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

9.2 That Members note the awards approved as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.

9.3 Members note the indicative budget allocations outlined in 4.1.7 and 4.2.6.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure that the applications received under this report are determined in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation criteria.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Councils Financial Regulations.

Author: D. Roberts - Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support)
Consultees: Stephen R Harris – Interim Head of Corporate Finance
A Southcombe – Finance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Panel Awards
Appendix 2 General Criteria Awards
Appendix 3 Welsh Church Fund Act - 2015/2016
Appendix 4 General Criteria

Appendix 1 - Panel Awards

Ref	Name of Organisation	Charity/Vol Org. Etc	Area	Award Sought	Amount Awarded	Background Information	Purpose for Grant	Amounts from Other Sources	Previous Awards	Similar Awards
				£				£	£	£
15/P010	CCB Stroke Support Group	Charity	Penyrheol	500.00		Help people who have been affected to get the help they need	Help towards room hire at two venues	0.00	0.00	0.00
15/P011	Aber Valley CISWO Social Group	Other	Aber Valley	480.00		Reach isolated people and offer them a wide range of activities and friendship	Refreshments and activities costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
				980.00						

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Appendix 2 - General Criteria Awards

Reference	Name of Organisation/Individual	Sport	Award Category	Criteria Award
				£
15/GC075	Rhymney Valley South Road Flying Club		Pigeon Clubs	200.00
15/GC076	Budokan		Junior Sports Club (up to 50 members).	100.00
15/GC077	Sporting Individual Representing Country	Clay Shooting	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad.	250.00
15/GC078	Ravenswood Allotment Society		Allotments	100.00
15/GC079	Sporting Individual Representing Country	Bowls	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home.	130.00
15/GC080	Bargoed Mail Voice Choir		Choirs.	100.00
15/GC081	Sporting Individual Representing Country	Bowls	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home.	130.00
15/GC082	Bargoed & District Art Society		Arts Society	100.00
15/GC083	St Martins Ward Pensioners Association		OAP Association without own building.	150.00
15/GC084	Sporting Individual Representing Country	Badminton	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad.	250.00
15/GC085	Trevelyan Court Residents Group		Tennants & Residents Association	100.00
15/GC086	1st Aber Valley Scout Group		Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (upto 50 members)	100.00
15/GC087	The Youth Centre, Cefn Hengoed		Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (upto 50 members)	100.00
15/GC088	Trethomas Bluebirds AFC		Sports Club (over 50 members).	200.00
15/GC089	Sporting Individual Representing Country	Pool	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home.	130.00
15/GC090	3rd Caerphilly (St Martins) Guides		Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (upto 50 members)	100.00
15/GC091	Parish of Gelligaer Social Committee Group		Clubs run From Churches/Chapels	200.00
				2,440.00

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Appendix 3 - Welsh Church Fund Act -2015/16

REF No.	Organisation	Category	Description	Award Sought
15/WCF014	The Welsh Church, Abercarn	Charity Status	Replace rot decayed floor	2,000.00
15/WCF015	Hephzibah Baptist Chapel, Bedwas	Voluntary Organisation	Repair boundary wall	1,479.00
15/WCF016	Blackwood Little Theatre	Charity Status	Replace roof	2,000.00
15/WCF017	First Love Community Church, Senghenydd	Charity Status (pending)	Central Heating system	2,000.00
	TOTAL			7,479.00

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Appendix 4

Category	New Criteria	Annual Award
a	OAP Association with own building.	£ 300.00
b	OAP Association without own building.	£ 150.00
c	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales at home.	£ 130.00
c1	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales Top Up Grant	£ 120.00
d	Individuals (amateur) representing Wales abroad.	£ 250.00
e	Jazz Bands.	£ 100.00
f	Choirs.	£ 100.00
g	Junior Sports Club (up to 50 members).	£ 100.00
g1	Junior Sports Club (over 50 members).	£ 200.00
h	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (upto 50 members).	£ 100.00
h1	Boys & Girls Clubs/YMCA/Scouts/Cubs/Brownies/Guides/Boys Brigade/Crusaders (over 50 members).	£ 200.00
i	St John Ambulance (upto 50 members):- Cadets/Badgers	£ 100.00
j	St John Ambulance (over 50 members):- Cadets/Badgers	£ 200.00
m	Brass and Silver Bands	£ 400.00
n	Allotments	£ 100.00
o	Arts Society	£ 100.00
p	Writers Clubs	£ 100.00
q	Theatre Groups	£ 200.00
r	Community Groups	£ 100.00
s	Beekeepers Groups	£ 100.00
t	Garden Clubs	£ 150.00
u	Tennants & Residants Association	£ 100.00
v	Websites - Initial Design stage only	£ 100.00
w	Pigeon Clubs	£ 200.00
x	Clubs run From Churches/Chapels	£ 200.00
y	Sports Club (up to 50 members).	£ 100.00
z	Sports Club (over 50 members).	£ 200.00
aa	Other - upto max	£ 400.00

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