



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH 2016 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Carter – Chair (Presiding)

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, C. Cuss, C. Hawker, A. Higgs, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd and E. Stenner.

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 Councillors Ms L. Ackerman, H.A. Andrews, R.W. Gough, D. Havard and M. Prew.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Carter declared an interest in Item 4, Applications for Financial Assistance Appendix 2, General Criteria Awards. Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. MINUTES – 25TH SEPTEMBER 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 £67,933.11, 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 £50,013.11. This balance will be carried forward to the 2016/17 financial year.

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 £7,479.00.

Members noted that if all awards spend to their maximum allocation there would be a remaining balance of £174,518.33, which will be carried forward into the next financial year. Monmouthshire County Council have advised that the provisional allocation for 2016-17 would be £61,600, resulting in a total available budget for 2016/17 of £236,118.33. Concerns were raised that there is a large balance remaining within the fund.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that Officers seek advice from other Local Authorities on their allocation processes for the fund and provide a report at the next meeting for Members to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

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)	CCB Stroke Support Group	£250.00
(b)	Aber Valley CISWO Social Group	£250.00

4.4 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Councillor D. Carter declared a personal interest in Appendix 2, 15/GC080, Bargoed Male Voice Choir in that he is a Member of the Choir.

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £2,440.00, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

The meeting closed at 5.18 p.m.

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

CHAIR