



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY 2016 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew,
R. Saralis, Mrs E. Stenner

Together with:

S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant -
Financial Advice and Support), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Mrs G. Oliver was appointed Chair of the Panel for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor R. Gough was appointed Vice-Chair of the Panel for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C.J. Cuss, D. Havard, A.G. Higgs
and Mrs G. Elliott (Communities First Finance Assistant).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Ms L. Ackerman, D. Carter and
K. Lloyd in relation to Appendix 1, General Panel Awards. Details are minuted with the
respective item.

5. MINUTES - 23RD MARCH 2016

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 23rd March 2016 (minute
nos. 1 - 4) were received and approved as a correct record.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the “Welsh Church Fund”, provided details of applications received and those determined under delegated powers and in accordance with the agreed criteria.

7. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Members were advised that the projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2016-17 is £154,859.52. Allowing for the projected spend on the Discretionary Rate Relief the available balance for schemes is £109,162.04 which includes the carry forward balances. The balance remaining if all grants requested are awarded as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report will be £99,032.04.

The Panel noted this information and that updates on the budget available would be provided at each meeting.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PANEL AWARDS

Both Councillors Ms L. Ackerman and K. Lloyd declared an interest in the application from Friends of Navigation. Councillor D. Carter declared an interest in the application as it refers to Rhymney Valley Literature and Arts Festival. They took no part in the discussion or voting on the specific applications

It was noted that the total amount requested in respect of the applications listed in Appendix 1 is £1,170.00 (5 applications). These applications do not meet the criteria as set out in Appendix 4 of the report. Members were asked to consider these applications and make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval or otherwise under delegated powers.

Members then considered the applications listed in Appendix 1 to the report. Having fully considered the applications, it was unanimously agreed that the following recommendations be made to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

RECOMMENDED that: -

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

	£
Rhymney Valley Literature and Arts Festival	200
Friends of Navigation	150
Individual (Amateur) - Athletic/Track*	130
Individual (Amateur) - Hockey*	250

* subject to evidence being provided that the applicant has met the criteria in the last 12 months;

- (ii) in that there is no criteria to support an application to provide educational/sporting assistance at a summer camp, the application be not supported;
- (iii) the criteria for sporting applications be presented to the next meeting in order that it can be determined as to whether it should be revised.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: GENERAL CRITERIA AWARDS

A query was raised in relation to the status of the application for Treowen Village Hall and as to whether it falls into the category of a Community Group or OAP Association. Mr Harris advised that the application has been submitted by a Community Group but that he would undertake enquires and make a further grant if required

Subject to the foregoing, Members noted details of those applications outlined in Appendix 2 which are in accordance with the criteria set out in Appendix 4 and have been approved by Officers (but not actioned). These total £8,960.00 - 43 applications.

10. WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

Members were reminded of the criteria which applies when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Find and of the decision taken that Officers would approve applications that meet the Welsh Church Act Fund Criteria using delegated powers. These decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.

It was noted that confirmation has been received from Monmouthshire County Council that the 2016/17 budget allocation will be £61,600.00. Underspends from previous years of £174,518.33 have been be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of £236,118.33.

At the last meeting, it was agreed that Officers would seek advice from other Local Authorities on their allocation processes for the Welsh Church Fund and would provide a report for Panel Members to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet. Much of this information has now been received but the Interim Head of Corporate Finance needs to seek advice from the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer on the appropriate process to follow to agree any changes to the process currently operating in the county borough. A further update/report will be provided at the next meeting of the Panel.

Details of five applications received since the last meeting as set out in Appendix 3 of the report (totalling £7,920.00) were noted as were those in appendix 5 which had previously be approved but have exceeded the 18 month time limit to claim funding as set out in the Terms and Conditions and have subsequently been withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

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

CHAIR