



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

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

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, C. Cuss, D.G. Carter, 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), Mrs G. Elliot (Communities First Finance Assistant) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Higgs, R. Saralis and Mrs E. Stenner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 13TH JULY 2016

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 13th July 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 10) were received and approved as a correct record.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Statement of Expenditure

Members noted the budget available for 2016-2017 as £102,814.71, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£151,516.85), budget carried forward and Grant allocations to date. If all awards in the report be agreed the remaining budget would be £97,184.71.

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 £7,630.00.

Monmouthshire County Council have advised that the allocation of £61,600.00 is available for 2016-17 and the underspends of £174,518.33 could be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for 2016/17 of £236,118.33. Members noted that if all awards spend to their maximum allocation there would be a remaining balance of £228,198.33.

At the last meeting, the Panel requested that Officers seek information from other Local Authorities on their allocation processes for the Welsh Church Fund and provide a report to Members for consideration and make recommendations to Cabinet. Since the last meeting, information has been sought by the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and advise has been provided by the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer that any proposed changes to the current process and criteria would need approval of Cabinet. The Panel therefore agreed to seek a steer from Cabinet through PDM, feedback and seek the views of the Panel, prior to a recommendation to Cabinet for approval.

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £7,630.00, as listed in Appendix 3, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

4.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards

Members were asked to consider the application 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 application for financial assistance be referred to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers:-

(a) St Andrew's Church £500.00

4.4 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £5,130.00, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

The meeting closed at 5.16 p.m.

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

CHAIR