



## **GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK  
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY 2017 AT 5.00 PM**

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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. TO APPOINT THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

It was moved and seconded that Councillor G. Oliver be appointed as Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for the ensuing year and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor G. Oliver be appointed Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for the ensuing year.

It was moved and seconded that Councillor R. Gough be appointed as Vice Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for the ensuing year and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor R. Gough be appointed as Vice Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector for the ensuing year.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Davies, D. Hardacre, M.P. James, A. Higgs, Mrs A. Leonard, D.W.R. Preece and R. Saralis.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lyndon Binding declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Applications for Financial Assistance) Appendix 4. Details of the declarations are recorded with the relevant item.

#### 4. MINUTES – 23RD NOVEMBER 2016

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 23rd November 2016 (minute nos. 1 – 4.4) were received and approved as a correct record.

#### 5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

##### 5.1 Assistance to the Voluntary Sector Budget

Members noted the budget available for 2017-2018 is £107,724.20, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£158,515.45) and budget carried forward from 2016-2017 (£90,422.65). If all awards in the report are agreed the remaining budget would be £98,424.24.

##### 5.2 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)	Croespenmaen Baptist Church	£200.00
(b)	Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children	£200.00
(c)	Cascade Keyboard Group	£200.00
(d)	Black Vein Miners Memorial Society	£500.00

In addition, Members noted that Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children make an annual application, as a result, it was requested that they provide additional information to supplement any future application. Furthermore, Members requested that Black Vein Miners Memorial Society be advised to also apply for funding under the Welsh Church Act Fund.

##### 5.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £5,500.00, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

##### 5.4 Welsh Church Act Fund

Councillor Lyndon Binding declared an interest in Appendix 4 Application 17/WCF002, The Benefice of Eglwysilan and Caerphilly St Ilan's Church as the application refers to a Church he attends.

Monmouthshire County Council have advised that the allocation of £61,600.00 is available for 2017-18 and the underspends from previous years totalling £218,568.33 could be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for 2017/18 of £280,168.33. Members noted that if all awards spend to their maximum allocation there would be a remaining balance of £274,701.66.

Members were asked to consider the application listed in Appendix 3 of the report and make the appropriate recommendation to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval, as this is the first application received by a "Community Interest Company".

RECOMMENDED that the following application for Welsh Church Act Fund assistance be referred to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers:-

(a)	Libanus Lifestyle (Wales) CIC	£1,878.06
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Members noted the applications received since the last meeting that meet the Welsh Church Act Fund criteria, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the report, which totalled £3,466.67.

In addition, Members noted Appendix 6, which outlines the previously approved applications that have exceeded the 18 month time limit to claim funding, whom have now been advised that the grant has been withdrawn.

In discussing the allocation of the Welsh Church Act Fund, Officers highlighted that there have been significant underspends in previous years. Following consideration and discussion, the Panel supported the Officers proposal to seek a steer from Cabinet on revising the award criteria in future years. The Panel will be consulted on any proposed changes before they are formally agreed.

The meeting closed at 5.29 p.m.

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

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CHAIR