



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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK  
ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 2017 AT 5.00 PM**

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**PRESENT:**

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

**Councillors:**

Mrs C. Andrews, M. Davies, Ms A. Gair, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard and R. Saralis.

**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 L. Binding, A. Farina-Childs, D. Hardacre, A. Higgs, M.P. James, D.W.R. Preece and A. Whitcombe.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R. Gough declared an interest in Agenda item 4 (Applications for Financial Assistance) Appendix 1. Details of the declaration are recorded with the relevant item.

### **3. MINUTES – 19TH JULY 2017**

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 19th July 2017 (minute nos. 1 – 5.4) were received and approved as a correct record.

### **4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Councillor R. Gough declared an interest in Appendix 1 Application 17/P007 Friends of Navigation, as the applicant and associated stakeholders are known to him and as a result did not participate in the debate or voting.

#### **4.1 Assistance to the Voluntary Sector Budget**

Members noted the budget available for 2017-2018 is £118,192.11, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£141,647.54) and budget carried forward from 2016-2017 (£90,422.65). If all awards in the report are agreed the remaining budget would be £170,752.11.

4.2 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)	St Andrew's Church Penyrheol	£500.00
(b)	Penuel Chapel, Rhymney	£400.00
(c)	Friends of Navigation	£750.00
(d)	Kids Cancer Charity T/A Christian Lewis Trust	£1650.00

In addition, Members noted that an the Kids Cancer Charity T/A Christian Lewis Trust make an annual application and concerns were raised that the escalated amount awarded could set a precedent, however, in noting that 3 children and families listed in the application were from the Caerphilly County Borough, it was agreed to designate the requested amount, with applications considered on a case by case basis in the future.

4.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £7,140.00, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by officers.

4.4 Welsh Church Act Fund

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, there were some allocated grants, which were not claimed and therefore if all awards spend to their maximum allocation there would be a remaining balance of £265,173.20.

In discussing the allocation of the Welsh Church Act Fund, Officers reminded the Panel that, at a previous meeting it was agreed that information be sought from other Local Authorities on their allocation process for the Welsh Church Fund and a report be provided to the Panel to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet. It was noted that much of this information has now been received and the Interim Head of Corporate Finance has been advised by the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer that any proposed changes to the current process and criteria will need to be approved by Cabinet.

The Interim Head of Corporate Finance has discussed this matter with the Leader and it has been agreed that a report will be prepared for Cabinet early in the New Year outlining potential changes to the Welsh Church Fund in terms of the level of funding that can be awarded. Any changes agreed by Cabinet will then be implemented from April 2018. The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel are to hold an informal meeting in January to consider the proposals, prior to their consideration by Cabinet.

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting that meet the Welsh Church Act Fund criteria, as outlined in Appendix 3 of the report, which totalled £9,650.40.

The meeting closed at 5.27 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