



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 2018 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs C. Andrews, M. Davies, D. Hardacre, L. Jeremiah, D.W.R. Preece, R. Saralis, J. Taylor and A. Whitcombe.

Together with:

D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant - Financial Advice and Support), V. Doyle (Policy Officer) and K. Houghton (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors L. Binding, A. Farina-Childs, Ms A. Gair, A. Higgs, Mrs A. Leonard and R. Saralis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Davies 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 – 25TH JULY 2018

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 25th July 2018 (minute nos. 1 – 7) were received and approved as a correct record.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor M. Davies declared an interest in Appendix 1 Application 18/P003 Crumlin Christmas Lights, as he has been involved in the organisation of the Christmas lights therefore the applicant and associated stakeholders are known to him and as a result did not participate in the voting.

4.1 Grants to the Voluntary Sector Budget

Members noted the budget available for 2018-2019 is £148,151.01, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£171,689.00) and budget carried forward from 2017-2018 (£140,507.01). If all awards in the report are agreed the remaining budget

would be £131,501.01.

- 4.2 Members were asked to consider the applications listed in Appendix 1 to the report and to make appropriate recommendations to the Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer for approval.

In the course of the Members consideration of Application 18/P002 – Panuel Chapel, Rhymney, concerns were raised that the application was for specific costs relating to insurance and it was proposed that the grant be awarded for general running costs and this was agreed by the majority present.

RECOMMENDED that the following applications for financial assistance be referred to the Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer for approval under delegated powers:-

(a)	Panuel Chapel, Rhymney	£200.00 (for running costs)
(b)	Crumlin Christmas Lights	£0.00
(c)	St Andrew's Church Penyrheol	£275.00

- 4.3 Applications for Financial Assistance: General Criteria Awards

Members noted the applications received since the last meeting totalling £3,140.00, 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 2018-19 and the underspends from previous years totalling £263,239.89 could be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for 2018/19 of £324,839.00. Members noted that at the last meeting awards totalling £59,202.33 were reported as being allocated to new projects in 2018/19. Since then a number of approved projects had submitted their claims or expenditure, with 3 projects spending less than the amount originally allocated being a total sum of £2502.39. This amount has been re-absorbed back into the funding pot to be used for other projects. Therefore the sum available is £268, 139.95.

In discussing the allocation of the Welsh Church Act Fund, Officers reminded the Panel that the revised criteria for awarding grants was introduced with effect from the 1st April 2018 however Members were also advised that the Welsh Church Fund will need to be reviewed and the criteria adjusted, given that a larger amount of funding had reached communities and organisations this financial year, and a report on this would likely be produced in Spring 2019.

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 £101,143.49.

The meeting closed at 5.48 p.m.

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

CHAIR