



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH JULY 2019 AT 5.00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Together with:

S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), V. Doyle (Policy Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Mrs G.D 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 Mrs G.D. Oliver be appointed Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for the ensuing year.

2. TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor R.W. 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.W. Gough be appointed as Vice Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Farina-Childs, Ms a. Gair, d. Hardacre and Mrs A. Leonard.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Mrs C. Andrews in respect of Agenda

Item No. 5 (Applications for Financial Assistance). Details are minuted with the respective item.

5. MINUTES – 6TH MARCH 2019

Subject to it being noted that Councillor C. Andrews declared a personal and not prejudicial interest in Item 5 (Applications for Financial Assistance) as a friend sits on the management committee of Valleys Daffodils, the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 6th March 2019 (minute nos. 1 – 5.2) were received and approved as a correct record.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Councillor C. Andrews declared an interest in this item in relation to grant funding for Valley Daffodils, as a close friend sits on the management committee. It was advised that the interest was personal and not prejudicial; therefore Councillor Andrews was able to remain in the meeting and take part in the full debate and vote.

The report informed the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st February 2019 and 31st May 2019, and to summarise the total awards made during 2018-19.

The report advised the Panel of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund and provided details of applications received between 1st February and 31st May 2019, also providing a summary of the number of grants and the total amounts allocated during 2018-19 for both grant schemes.

Members noted the budget available for 2019-20 is £141,159.38, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£171,430.61) and budget carried forward from 2018-2019 (£128,952.99).

It was noted that since the last meeting held in March 2019, a total of 16 applications were received totalling £2,180.00. These applications were awarded to applicants by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

The Panel noted that between 1st April and 31st May 2019, 34 General Criteria applications have been received, totalling £5,810.00, which were approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

The Panel were asked to consider 2 applications received between 1st April and 31st May 2019, which do not meet the General Criteria, as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report, and make appropriate recommendations to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval.

The Panel discussed the merits of the applications set out in 5.1.7 of the report, which had not met the criteria as set out in Appendix 1 of the report:

- (a) Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children
- (b) Kids Cancer Charity

The Panel discussed the application from Cambrian Educational Foundation for Deaf Children and it was noted that there is no specified amount requested on the application, however an award of £200 was made in 2017. Members discussed the application at length it was unanimously agreed that further information on the service provision, particularly within the Caerphilly County Borough be sought from the applicant.

The Panel discussed the application from Kids Cancer Charity and noted that grants of £1,650 were awarded in 2014 and 2017 and £500 in 2012 for the provision of respite breaks, play

therapy, befriending and bereavement support to families across the County Borough. Following discussion it was moved and seconded that the Panel award £1,650 to Kids Cancer Charity. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

As previously agreed by the Panel, grants awarded during the 2019-20 financial year that exceed the budget allocation will be funded from the brought forward balances.

The Panel were referred to paragraph 5.2 within the report, referring to the Welsh Church Act Fund and it was noted that at the beginning of the 2018-19 financial year, the total budget available was £324,839.89 as a result of underspends from previous years.

However, between 1st February 2019 and 31st March 2019, a total of 5 applications were received totalling £30,222.40, which were approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers and reported to the Panel for information, as outlined in 5.2.2 of the report.

It was noted that during 2018/19 a total of 42 Welsh Church Act Fund projects were approved with a total value of £216,607.03, providing a remaining balance of £108,232.86 carried forward to 2019/20.

At the previous meeting, the Panel were consulted on proposed changes to the criteria for the Welsh Church Act Fund, which have subsequently been approved by Cabinet and implemented as of the 1st April 2019.

It was noted that the total budget available for 2019/20 is £157,432.21, including the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (£64,751), underspends from previous years (£108,232.86) and 2019/20 grants awarded to date (£15,731.40) as outlined at 5.2.8 of the report.

The Panel were asked to consider an application from an individual in relation to 'the advancement of education', which was an additional element added to the criteria from April 2019. The Panel were provided with details of an application for £1500 for 1 year at an education establishment, at which they are a pupil and will be undertaking GCSE's in the next academic year. The grant is to assist with school fees at a prestigious education establishment, renowned for being the best school in the UK for sport.

The Panel discussed the report and application at length, querying the terms of grant and application process, in which Members were reminded that the grant could be awarded to exceptional individuals, should it meet the relevant criteria.

Following consideration and discussion, the Panel agreed that the application met the relevant criteria and it was moved and seconded that the grant be awarded. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report the Panel support the applicants request for £1,500 grant, and refer to the Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

The meeting closed at 5.42 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2019, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR