



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2020 AT 3.00 PM**

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Gair – Chair
Councillor R. Gough – Vice Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Andrews, M. Davies, A. Farina-Childs, A. Gair, D.W.R. Preece, J. Roberts, J. Taylor, A. Whitcombe and B. Zaplatynski

Together with:

V. Doyle (Policy Officer), S. Harris (Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor A. Gair 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 A. Gair 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. Higgs, L. Jeremiah, A. Leonard, Mrs G.D. Oliver and J. Taylor.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. MINUTES – 4TH MARCH 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 4th March 2020 (minute nos. 1 – 4) were received and approved as a correct record.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The report informed the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st February 2020 and 31st March 2020 relating to the 2019/20 financial year and to inform the Panel of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st April and 30th September 2020 relating to the 2020/21 financial year.

The Panel were also asked to consider two applications from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Members noted the budget available for 2019/20 is £143,542.18, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£169,047.81) and budget carried forward from 2018-2019 (£128,952.99). The Panel noted that the balance carried forward to 2020-21 is £126,992.18.

It was noted that since the last meeting, a total of 10 new applications had been approved totalling £1,750.00. These grants were awarded by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers. Following the award of these grants, the amount remaining for the current financial year is £125,242.18.

Members noted the budget available for 2020/21 is £144,136.18, which included the estimated reduction for Discretionary Rate Relief (£167,865.00) and budget carried forward from 2019-2020 (£125,242.18).

It was noted that between 1st April and 30th September 2020 the last meeting, a total of 8 new applications had been approved totalling £1,100.00. These grants were awarded by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers. Following the award of these grants, the amount remaining for the current financial year is £143,036.18.

The Panel noted that the total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2019/20 was £183,641.74, which consisted of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (£64,751.00), unallocated sums from previous years (£108,232.86), and underspends on completed projects (£4,888.04).

The Panel were also asked to note that two grants have been withdrawn as they exceeded the 18-month time limit to claim the grant awarded, resulting in a clawback amount of £5,769.84.

It was noted that a total of 3 additional applications have been received totalling £10,085 since the last Panel meeting, which have been approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

The Panel noted that the total Welsh Church Acts Fund budget available for 2020/21 was £178,843.42, which consisted of the annual allocation from Monmouthshire County Council (£64,750.62), unallocated sums from previous years (£113,911.56), and underspends on completed projects (£181.24).

Between 1st April and 30th September 2020 four applications were received from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund. Two of which were circulated to the Panel via email, from which the Panel recommended that both be awarded £1,500, which was approved

by the Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer under delegated powers.

A further two applications have been received, which the Panel were asked to consider, totalling £2,089.99. Should all grants awarded in 2020/21 (but not yet drawn down) spend the maximum amounts allocated, there will be a remaining balance of £125,423.19.

The Panel noted that as a result of the Pandemic, a report to Cabinet which requested an increase to the allocation has not yet been considered and therefore allocations are made at the same rate as in previous year. It was also noted that few applications were being received, but more applications are now being received across all Grant streams. The Panel were reassured that any unspent funding, in particular from the Welsh Church Acts Fund would be carried over to the next financial year.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the Officers report be approved. By way of electronic voting, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report the applications received that meet the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already be approved by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers, and which were reported to the Panel for information, be noted.

EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, and it was moved and seconded that the public interest test be accepted and the meeting move into exempt session.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph 14 of Part 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Panel were asked to consider the application from an individual for the sum of £849, make a recommendation on whether to approve the application and, if so, the level of grant to be awarded.

The Panel were asked to consider the application from an individual for the sum of £1,240.99, make a recommendation on whether to approve the application and, if so, the level of grant to be awarded.

Following consideration and discussion, the Panel recommended that the applications be rejected, but that the applicants be provided with details of other grants they may be applicable for. By way of electronic voting, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting It be recommended to the Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer that the applications from two individuals under the Welsh Church Acts Fund be rejected.

The meeting closed at 3.48 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 24th March 2021, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR