



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
WEDNESDAY, 21ST JULY 2021 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C. Andrews, A. Gair, J. Ridgewell, J. Taylor and B. Zaplatynski.

Together with:

S. Harris (Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded and would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click here to view.](#)

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE 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 as Chair of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel 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.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M. Davies, A. Farina- Childs, D. Hardacre, A. Higgs, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, Mrs G. D. Oliver, D. W. R. Preece and J. E. Roberts.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R. Gough declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 (5.2.2 of the report), as Chair of Llanbradach Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor C. Andrews declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 (5.1.8 of the report), as Valley Daffodils is one of the Mayor's charities and her friend volunteers for them.

It was noted that these items had been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and were reported to the Panel for information only.

4. MINUTES – 24TH MARCH 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 24th March 2021 (minute nos. 1 – 4) were received and approved as a correct record.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The report provided the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel with details of the applications for financial assistance received between 1st January 2021 and 31st March 2021 relating to the 2020/21 financial year and applications for financial assistance received between 1st April 2021 and 31st May 2021 relating to the 2021/22 financial year. The Panel was also asked to consider two applications from individuals in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Members were advised of the budget allocations for both the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Acts Fund budget and provided with details of applications received and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers between 1st January and 31st May 2021.

A Member enquired as to whether the grant allocation could be increased for the first Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held in the next financial year due to the consequences of Covid-19 in the current financial year. The Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer informed the Panel that a service review is being undertaken in relation to all grants across the Council, however it was agreed that the situation will be monitored over the next six months and it may need to be considered outside of the review.

A Member raised concerns regarding the projected level of Discretionary Rate Relief payments for 2021/22. The Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer informed Members that the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was amended a few years ago and some larger organisations no longer qualify or can only access a proportion of the funding. Members were advised that, moving forward the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer may consider separating the Discretionary Rate Relief budget so that there would be a definitive budget every year for grants to organisations. However, this would be part of the wider service review and appropriate recommendations would be made in due course.

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel noted the applications received that met the criteria for Financial Assistance and the Welsh Church Acts Fund, which have already been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.

PUBLIC INTEREST TESTS

Members considered the public interest test certificate, in relation to Appendix 2 of the application for financial assistance, from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the

information. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

Members considered the public interest test certificate, in relation to Appendix 3 of the application for financial assistance, from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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 paragraphs 12 and 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXEMPT MATTER

Members of the Panel were asked to make a recommendation for approval or otherwise in relation to requests for funding from two individuals under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation will then be considered and approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers.

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.

RECOMMENDED to the Head of Financial Services & Section 151 Officer:

Appendix 2 – To approve the request from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Appendix 3 – To approve the request from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

The meeting closed at 5.39 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 18th November 2021, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR