



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C. Andrews, M. Davies, A. Farina- Childs, D.W.R. Preece, J. Ridgewell, J. E. Roberts and
B. Zaplatinski.

Together with:

S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), V. Doyle (Policy Officer), S. Hughes
(Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services 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. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D. T. Hardacre, A. Higgs, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, Mrs G. D. Oliver and J. Taylor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 21ST JULY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 21st July 2021 (minute nos. 1 – 5) be approved as a correct record.

4. 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 June and 30th September 2021 and sought the views of the Panel on one application that does not meet the general criteria.

The report also informed the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel of the applications for Welsh Church Acts Fund received between 1st June and 30th September 2021 and informed Panel Members of funding withdrawn from two previously approved Welsh Church Acts Fund projects and the reasons for this course of action. The report sought Panel views on one application from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund.

Details of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the projected Discretionary Rate Relief for 2021/22 were provided. The Panel was advised that, between 1st June and 30th September 2021, seven new General Criteria awards were made totalling £890. It was noted that these have been approved by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only.

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel was informed that in the period between 1st June and 30th September 2021, one application had been received that is outside the general criteria as set out in Appendix 1. Members were referred to the application, attached at Appendix 2 of the report, and were requested to make a recommendation as to whether the application should be supported, and if so the amount of funding to be awarded. It was noted that the recommendation would then be considered by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer and approved or otherwise under delegated powers.

Clarification and further information were requested in relation to the purpose for which the grant was sought and the Policy Officer responded to the points raised. Panel Members highlighted that the organisation supports a much wider area than the Caerphilly borough and assurance was sought that the beneficiaries would be from the local area.

During the course of discussion, it was agreed that any funding awarded would be subject to a discussion between the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer and the Acting Chief Executive, in his capacity as Director of Housing, to ensure the award of the grant is appropriate before the funding is released and an update would be provided at the next Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel meeting.

Members noted the total Welsh Church Act Fund budget available for 2021/22. Members were informed that between 1st June and 30th September 2021, three applications have been received in respect of the Welsh Church Acts Fund. Two of these totalling £9,743.44 have been approved by the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer under delegated powers and are reported to the Panel for information only. The third application is from an individual and it was recommended that this be treated as an exempt item.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel: -

- (i) 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 and S151 Officer under delegated powers, and which are reported to the Panel for information.
- (ii) Made a recommendation for approval in relation to one application for financial assistance that did not meet the general criteria. This recommendation to be considered and approved or otherwise by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers.

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

To approve the application for financial assistance from an organisation that did not meet the general criteria (Appendix 2), in sum of £400.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Members considered the Public Interest Test and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was:-

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

The Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel made a recommendation for approval in relation to one application from an individual under the Welsh Church Acts Fund. This recommendation to be considered and approved or otherwise by the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer under delegated powers. By way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

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

- (i) To approve the request from an individual in relation to the Welsh Church Acts Fund, in the sum of £1,500.

The meeting closed at 5.48 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 3rd March 2022, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR