

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Organisation Committee of
Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 14 March 2016**

Present Councillors D Standing (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, LJ Chaney, R Kemp, M Johnston, DJ Williams and TJ Winter.

Also, Councillor R Jones

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council)

GL15/027 Apologies

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors S Brooks (personal), WM Howell (illness), KK Manneh (work commitments), TA Matthews (illness) and JC Powell (School Governors' Meeting)

GL15/028 Members' Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest. Councillors M Johnston declared an interest in Minute GL15/031 (c) below.

GL15/029 Committee Finances 2015/16

Members noted that a sum of £3,856 remained available within the Council's approved estimates for grants to voluntary organisations during the current financial year.

It was **recommended** that the position be noted.

GL15/030 Previous Grant Awards

At a meeting held on 30 June 2014, members asked to receive information about previous grants awarded by the committee, including the use of the grant. (Minute GL14/006(3) refers.) This information was therefore provided.

Members agreed that, in order to save on paper, any future agenda should only include information about grants awarded within the last four years. The Clerk displayed an electronic copy of the full list of grants awarded to which he referred during the meeting.

Members asked about the progress of potential applications on behalf of the Congress Theatre or Greenmeadow Farm, which were referred to at the last meeting (Minute GL15/023 refers.) The Clerk confirmed that no applications had been received from these groups.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

GL15/031 New Applications Received

Councillor M Johnston declared an interest in item (c) below.

It was **recommended** that the applications be dealt with as indicated below:

Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee
Subject to confirmation by Full Council

Any grants awarded at this meeting would be presented to recipients on following Council confirmation of the above recommendations on 30 March 2016. Any cheques to be presented would be presented immediately following that Council meeting.

Applicant	Grant Awarded
(a) Ponthir Friends for Life Community Hub	Nil. It was also recommended that the applicant is advised to consider approaching Croesyceiliog & Llanyravon Community Council for assistance.
(b) Victory Church Cwmbran	Nil
(c) All Creatures Great & Small (This application had been received on 14 March 2016 and had not been included on the agenda)	Deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

GL15/032 Grant Form & Criteria

Members noted that funding pressures facing outside organisations were likely to result in more applications to the committee in future. It was therefore important to keep the committee's procedures under review to ensure that grants were considered properly and awarded only to applicants who met the Council's criteria. Members therefore took the opportunity to review the grant application form and criteria ready for 2016/17.

Members discussed a number of recent approaches to the Council for financial assistance from organisation who were unlikely to meet the criteria for awarding grants, including a request for support from Pontypool Community Council for support with the costs of providing a Welfare Rights Project and from organisations formerly funded by Torfaen County Borough Council

Members emphasised that the role of the committee was to support and encourage viable applications from the voluntary sector. It was important that organisations who sought funding could demonstrate that they were in a position to make a genuine contribution to the community over a sustained period, thus ensuring that any benefits arising from grants awarded were maximised. Members suggested that, in future, applications should only be considered from organisations which had been in existence for two years or more, so that this sustainability could be demonstrated.

Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee
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Members also considered the format for reporting applications to committee and the way in which information provided by applicants was presented. There was scope to achieve more consistency between the format of the application form and reports to members.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the Council's existing criteria for awarding grants to Voluntary Organisations is confirmed, subject to the following, additional criteria:

“(xii) “the applying organisation should demonstrate that it has been in existence for two years or more.”

(2) the clerk is authorised to revise the layout of the Grant Application Form to help ensure that information required by the committee is more clearly presented.

Signed
(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)