

Minutes of a Meeting of the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 18 February 2019

Present Councillors WJ Walker (Chairman), Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, M Day, M Johnson, RD Kemp, M Villars and LE Williams

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council).

GVO18/026 Apologies

No apologies for absence were submitted.

(Apologies for absence were subsequently received from Councillors RhM Bennett and JS Davenne)

GVO18/027 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.

GVO18/028 Committee Finances 2018/19

Members noted that a sum of £8,480 was available to the committee from within the Council's approved estimates for grants to voluntary organisations during the current financial year. A further sum of £11,000 was set aside within Earmarked Reserves.

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

GVO18/029 Previous Grant Awards

Members received information on previous grants awarded.

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

GVO18/030 New Applications Received

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the applications be dealt with as indicated below:

Applicant	Grant Awarded	Statutory Power
(a) Cwmbran Boys Club	£600 towards the purchase of a defibrillator.	Local Government Act 1972 s145
(b) Cwmbran Lions	£350 to replace and upgrade two adult manikins.	Local Government Act 1972 s145

Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee 2018/19
Subject to confirmation by Full Council

- (2) each of the above applicants is informed that the Council would consider relaxing its usual requirement that grant applications will not be considered from an organisation more than once every two years in view of the significant benefit of the activities of each organisation to the community of Cwmbran.

GVO18/031 Grant Criteria

Members undertook a review of the current grant application form and criteria.

Members noted that Grants were often awarded using section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which empowered the council to spend up to a prescribed amount in any year for the direct benefit of their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. Any expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit to the community. However the Council had reviewed the statutory powers available to it to establish if a power existed before relying on s137 to authorise a payment as, where there was an existing specific statutory provision, that provision should be applied rather than s137.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the existing form and criteria are approved, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) criteria (ix) is amended to read:

“have benefit to the area of Cwmbran Community Council and not cater for a restricted or limited membership, although this should not be read to exclude minority interests and causes.”

- (ii) criteria (xii) is amended to read:

“the applying organisation should demonstrate that it has been in existence for one year or more.”

- (iii) a footnote is added to the existing criteria to state:

“The Council reserves the right to relax any of the above criteria at its discretion.”

- (2) reports relating to future applications should include details of the statutory power under which any grant could be awarded.
- (3) the Council’s established practice of making Information about the financial circumstances of each applicant (on a confidential basis) available to Members at each meeting is maintained.

Signed
(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)