

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

2 OCTOBER 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected – Margam and Taibach

NEATH PORT TALBOT WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Member approval in relation to grant application received at Appendix 1 attached.

2. Background and Financial Impact

The Council as trustee is responsible for managing the Welsh Church Act Trust Fund. Grants are received by application from churches and chapels, charitable organisations and individuals as set out in the criteria below. The Welsh Church Fund has funds available to it in its own right to distribute as part of an approved grant scheme. All claimants must claim their grant within two years of committee approval.

Review of Award Criteria

Welsh Church Acts Fund Guidelines for Grant Applications

- a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) Grants will only be awarded to charities and voluntary bodies which are based in, or active in, or provide significant benefits to some or all of the residents of the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- c) Grants will only be awarded to individuals in exceptional circumstances.
- d) Grants will not normally exceed £1,000 and in exceptional circumstances £4,000 per applicant and successful applicants

will not normally be reconsidered for a further grant within 3 years of the date of approval of the last grant.

- e) Grants will have a time limit for the take up of said grant of two years from the date of approval.
- f) Grants will not normally be awarded where the service could be dealt with out of the annual budget of the Council's service Committees activities or by other public bodies.
- g) Grants will not normally be awarded where they would commit the fund to regular annual payments nor will recurring annual expenses be supported.
- h) Grants will only be made out of the income of the fund, preserving the Fund's capital assets.
- i) Priority will be given to applications which are of significant benefit to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough area.
- j) Grant aid will not normally cover the full cost of a project/proposal and normally will be approved at 25% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (d) above. The grant of £4,000 will only be approved where expenditure exceeds £50,000.
- k) Organisations assessed as being able to meet the cost (e.g. by size or nature) are unlikely to receive any grant aid.
- l) Grants towards work of a structural nature will only be considered where
 - there is evidence that a professional assessment has been made of the works
 - the applicant organisation can demonstrate that there is no other impediment to work proceeding at an early date (e.g. planning permission).
- m) In the case of Churches and Chapels grants will only be approved for the repair of the fabric of buildings which are more than 50 years old and of the highest architectural and historic interest. Church halls, however, where available and used significantly by the public for non-religious purposes will not be subject to these criteria.

- n) No retrospective applications are considered.
- o) The Panel will take into account the Church membership and the normal size of the congregation.
- p) In the case of students undertaking further Education courses, contributions towards the costs of individual instruments or pieces of equipment etc. will be made as follows - 50% of all costs over a threshold of £2,000 up to a maximum grant of £1,000.

3. Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an impact assessment.

4. Valleys Communities Impacts

Applications for grant are available to churches and chapels, individuals and charitable organisations across the county borough.

5. Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts.

6. Legal Impacts

Grants are provided in line with the approved scheme criteria.

7. Risk Management Impacts

All grant applications are considered on their own merit and in line with the approved scheme criteria.

8. Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the application set out in the Appendix to this report.

10. Reason for Proposed Decision

To decide on the amount of financial support in respect of the grant application received.

11. Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

12. Appendices

Appendix – schedule of grant application.

13. List of Background Papers

Grant Application.

14. Officer Contact

Mr Huw Jones – Director of Finance
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Appendix

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
Taibach Wesley Methodist Chapel	Grant assistance towards costs of works to ensure water ingress does not continue to adversely impact the historic structure.	The cost of this project is estimated at £8,700. A professional assessment has been made of the works and they have received a current quote of £8,700, £6,300 has been paid to date and there is an outstanding balance of £2,400. Taibach Wesley Methodist Chapel is over 130 years old and is currently the only Chapel where worship still takes place in the area. The Chapel not only holds Bible Study, religious worship a Friendship Group and also acts as a community space housing groups such as Eastern Primary School who hold courses through the Adult Learning and Flying Start initiative. The Cymric Choir rehearse there twice weekly and Hems and Hobbies a local craft group meet once a week . The Chapel hall is also used for the purpose of voting.	N/A	A grant of £1,000 be approved

