

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

29 JUNE 2016

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES

#### Matters for Decision

**Wards Affected – Crynant (Welsh Church Act Trust Fund application)  
Sandfields East, Pontardawe, Bryn & Cwmavon,  
Coedffranc (Miscellaneous Grants)**

#### MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS AND WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND APPLICATIONS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

To seek Member approval in relation to grant applications received from various bodies. Appendices 1 and 2 attached.

##### 2. Background and Financial Impact

###### 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. Miscellaneous Grant Applications**

#### **Existing Policy Statement**

- a) Each application will be considered on its merits.
- b) The Committee will only approve applications for financial assistance from voluntary or charitable organisations which are manifestly committed to voluntary endeavours of a local nature. This will not preclude the consideration of applications where the disposal of funds is outside the area but still provides significant benefits for the people from the Neath Port Talbot area.
- c) No applications will be considered from religious bodies except relating to church halls and other premises where there is significant community use of the property for non-religious activities.
- d) No applications will be considered from other public funded bodies such as community councils, hospital trusts, etc. or where the benefit may be in lieu of their contributions such as appeals for hospital equipment.
- e) Applications from individuals may be considered where both the person and the community derive a benefit.
- f) No grants will be made to any individual or organisation whose prime purpose is to distribute their funds to other charitable bodies.

### **4. Miscellaneous Grant funding available**

Members have approved a budget of £3,650 for miscellaneous grants for 2016/17. Committee has previously approved £1,250 against this budget thus leaving £2,400 currently available.

### **5. Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution to consult on these items.

### **6. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members determine the applications set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

## **7. Reason for Proposed Decisions**

To decide on providing financial support in respect of the grant applications received.

## **8. Implementation of Decisions**

The decisions are proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **9. List of Background Papers**

Grant Applications

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment**

There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Welsh Church Act Trust Fund Applications

Appendix 2 – Miscellaneous Grant Applications

## **12. Officer Contact**

Mr Hywel Jenkins – Director of Finance and Corporate Services

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**Appendix 1**

**Welsh Church Act Trust Fund Application**

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
Saron Welsh Independent Chapel, Crynant	Painting, carpeting and repair to the interior of the Chapel. The cost of these works total £1,000.	If this application is successful 25% of the total amount will be payable	Grant assistance previously granted 25 February 2010 but was not paid – time lapsed	Maximum grant of 25% of the total costs.

## Appendix 2

### Miscellaneous Grant Applications

Applicant	Purpose	Amount Request/Cost of "Project"	Previous Support	Comments
Trustees of Aberavon Green Stars RFC (AGS)	Proposed Lease of Little Warren Playing Fields and Changing Village	£1,550 pa	Not applicable	Approve for five years then subject to review in line with rent review periods.
Trustees of Parc Ynysderw Sports Association	Proposed lease of Parc Ynysderw playing fields.	£1,500 pa	Not applicable	Approve for five years then subject to review in line with rent review periods.
Sewing So Community Project Cwmavon	To contribute towards the set up costs for sewing machines, laptop and running costs for a sewing community project in Cwmavon.	Projected first year cost of £8,883 excluding materials.	None	
Coedffranc Community Council	Lease agreement for land at Caewathan Community Centre Parc Glas Skewen	Rent increasing to £1,996.50 pa from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2016	90% grant towards lease cost of £1,815 pa ie £1,633.50	Grant of 90% of new rent be provided until next rent review