

WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 20th January, 2020.

Present: Councillor G.A. Cox (Chairman); Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vice-Chairman);
Councillors Mrs. J.E. Charles, R. Crowley and K.P. Mahoney

600 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor Mrs. P. Drake.

601 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September, 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Mrs. J.E. Charles had given apologies in advance of the meeting.

602 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

603 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2019/20 (MD) –

The Principal Accountant began by explaining to the Committee that the report before Members represented the third and final tranche of grants to be awarded in the Financial Year 2019/20. The Officer highlighted that a budget of £45,577 had been set for issuing grants during 2019/20, and that during the meeting of 17th June, 2019 grants had been awarded to a value of £20,000 whilst at the meeting of 23rd September, 2019 grants had been awarded to a value of £18,077. It was therefore proposed that the remaining budget of £7,500 be allocated against the three received applications, one of which had been deferred from the second tranche following a request from Committee Members for further information in respect of the Applicant's financial circumstances, and two of which had been received since the second tranche had been awarded.

The Officer also advised that, in order to ration funding in future years and in line with a resolution agreed at a previous meeting, it had been proposed that funding be prioritised to organisations that were making applications for one off projects and awards should be limited to once in every three years per organisation.

The Officer continued by outlining that at its meeting on 8th January, 2018 the Committee had agreed to progress the recommended options for the lane to the rear of Church Road, Cadoxton at an estimated cost of £30,000. This cost needed to be funded from reserves, and was therefore reflected in the financial estimates shown in Appendix C to the report. A Committee Member then drew the Officer's attention to an error contained within Appendix C, wherein the incorrect date had been listed

above the 'Full Year Estimate' column of the financial estimates table. The Officer apologised for the administrative error and acknowledged that the column heading should read 2020/21.

There being no further comments from Committee Members, consideration was given to the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A to the report, and the Officer noted that as requests for funding had totalled £9,112.50 for a remaining budget of £7,500, it had been recommended that all Applicants receive a reduced amount to that requested.

With reference to application 2 from The Smallpeice Trust, the Chairman asked for clarification regarding what the acronym 'STEM' stood for in relation to the STEM Enrichment Challenge Days which the Applicant was hoping to deliver. The Officer clarified that 'STEM' stood for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and that the aim of The Smallpeice Trust's project of delivering STEM Enrichment Challenge Days would be to encourage pupils to enter into these areas of future employment. The Officer also highlighted that as the Applicant was a national charity, its balance sheet set out relatively high total funds of £24,516,884. However the award, if granted, would specify that the STEM Enrichment Challenge Days be carried out at schools located in the Vale of Glamorgan or Cardiff Authority, and that contacts in the Education departments of both Local Authorities would be provided to the Applicant to ensure that appropriate schools were identified for the events.

With reference to application number 3 from ValePlus (Cymru) and ValePlus Extra Ltd, a Committee Member asked whether the Applicant was requesting funds to replace existing equipment, to which the Officer replied that the application document specified the fund would aid the provision of equipment for a new Arts and Crafts classroom at the organisation's premises. The Officer then highlighted that the application had been reduced by £500 to remove a contribution to electricity at the premises, as this was considered to be a recurring cost. The Chairman then asked whether the awarding of the grant would be subject to quotations obtained by the Applicant, to which the Officer confirmed that was correct.

There being no further questions from Committee Members, it was subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the applications for financial grant assistance as detailed below be approved:

Name of Organisation	Specific Purpose for which Grant Requested	Grant Approved
Grange Pavilion	Redevelopment of the Grange Pavilion is a scheme costing in excess of £1.7m and work commenced in July 2019. This application is specifically in respect of funding for the provision of a meditative space within the pavilion for hosting mental health and wellbeing events as well as yoga and meditation classes etc. The core aim of the organisation is to further or benefit the residents of Grangetown and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, sexual	£4,500

	orientation, race or political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the Local Authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.	
The Smallpiece Trust	Project title – STEM Enrichment Challenge. Delivery of 3 STEM Enrichment Challenge Days including teacher engagement process to organise the day, the delivery by The Smallpiece Trust's Education Officer, feedback and evaluation analysis and the students' resources and prizes. Also the provision of 3 The Smallpiece Trust Think kits for each participating school. The days give up to 60 pupils young people a hands on experience that will allow them to participate in a range of activities. Resources are provided to teachers to run projects with up to 20 students.	£2,000
ValePlus (Cymru) and ValePlus Extra Ltd	Provision of workbenches, tables and chairs for new Arts and Crafts classroom, situated at their main premises High Street Barry. This will provide a dedicated space for woodwork, arts and crafts and gardening. Service users will participate in all aspects of producing craft goods and the expanded space will enable the organisation to increase the number of adults with learning disabilities supported and will lead to the creation of a mini Social Enterprise increasing our level of self-generated income.	£1,000

Reason for decision

In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.

604 ANNOUNCEMENT –

The Chairman advised that there had been a slight delay in the production of the “Qualified Surveyors Report” relating to the Land at Glebe Fields, Sully which had meant that the Committee report on the matter was not able to be prepared for discussion at the current meeting. However, the Operational Manager for Property had advised that the Qualified Surveyors report had now been received in draft form which meant that the final report would be available shortly, allowing the Committee report to be drafted by the end of February or early March, 2020. The Operational Manger for Property and Chairman had therefore requested that an Extraordinary Meeting be arranged in order for the Committee to consider the report ahead of the next scheduled meeting due to take place in June of the new Municipal Year. The

Chairman advised the Committee that a date of Monday, 24th February, 2020 had been suggested, subject to Committee Members' availability.

The Chairman then added that following a resolution agreed at the previous meeting, a visit to the site in question should be arranged ahead of the Extraordinary Meeting, and that the site visit should ideally take place on the same date agreed for the meeting. All Committee Members present agreed that 24th February would be a suitable date for both the site visit and the Extraordinary Meeting to take place. Therefore, the Assistant Democratic Services Officer advised that she would circulate an email to all Committee Members containing further details regarding the site visit and meeting in due course. It was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee take place on 24th February, 2020 at 4.30 p.m.

Reason for decision

In order for the report to be presented to the Committee.