

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ICMD</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>02<sup>nd</sup> August 2023</b>
<b>DIVISIONS/WARD AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 1 held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

**2. RECOMMENDATION:**

2.1 The Committee resolved that the following grants are awarded as per the schedule of applications.

**SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2022/23 – MEETING 1.**

1. **Caldicot Musical Theatre Society** requested £800 to assist in putting on a production of Sister Act at Caldicot School in July 2023

Recommendation: £800 awarded to assist this community group in providing cultural entertainment for the local community.

2. **St Peter's Church, Llanwenarth Citra** requested £3,000 to assist in restoring the 19<sup>th</sup> Century organ within the church.

Recommendation: £2,000 awarded to assist in the refurbishment of the church's organ.

3. **Mathern and District Club** requested £590 to assist in purchasing catering equipment to enhance the potential for hall hire and stage future events.

Recommendation: £250 awarded to assist in the purchase of essential kitchen equipment to allow this community group to become self-sustaining.

4. **Caerwent Evangelical Baptist Chapel** requested £5,008 for setting up a café on the church premises for the benefit of the whole community.

Recommendation: £689 awarded to assist in the provision of catering equipment to enable a community café facility to be established in the chapel for the local community and visitors to the area.

5. **Blue Phoenix Jazz Band** requested £3,000 to assist in the purchase of competition uniforms for this youth community group.

Recommendation: £1,000 awarded to assist in the purchase uniforms as representatives of the local community in national competitions.

- 6. Monmouthshire veterans Support Hub** requested £4,451 to assist in relocating the support hub from Abergavenny Library to the St John's Ambulance Hall due to the increase in veteran members.

Recommendation: £550 awarded to assist in the purchase of essential kitchen equipment to allow this community group to become self-sustaining.

- 7. Church of St James the Great, Devauden** requested £7,500 for assistance in a major refurbishment to the church roof, windows and woodwork as identified in the 2019 quinquennial report.

Recommendation: £2,000 awarded to assist in the refurbishment of the roof to the church to prevent further water ingress and damage to this community asset.

- 8. Chepstow Priory Friends** requested £15,000 to assist in the repair and restoration of the Priory tower steps.

Recommendation: This application has been deferred for further information before an appropriate award can be made on this complex restoration.

### **3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Decision options available to the Committee are guided and driven by the information supplied by the applicants.

### **4. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

No evaluation criteria are applicable to the grant awarded by the trust.

### **5. REASONS**

A Meeting took place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee Working Group to recommend the payment of grants as detailed in the attached schedule (Appendix 1).

County Councillors in attendance at meeting 1:

County Councillor J. Strong (Chair)  
County Councillor M. Lane (Vice- Chair)  
County Councillor S. Garrett

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE at meeting 1:

D. Jarrett      Central Finance  
R. Williams    Democratic Services Officer

#### **5.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 2.1 (2) - St. Peters Church Llanwenarth: County Councillor Malcolm Lane declared a personal, prejudicial interest as he was part of the clergy team. He took no part in the decision made.

5.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE at meeting 1

County Councillor A. Webb

5.3 CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on the 09<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

A total of £7,289 has been allocated to applicants at Meeting 1 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee The balance of £37,789 is available for utilisation within the current 2023-24 fiscal year.

**6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

There are no Future Generations, equality, safeguarding, corporate parenting or sustainable development implications directly arising from this report. The assessment is contained in the attached appendix.

**7. CONSULTEES:**

Senior Leadership Team  
All Cabinet Members  
Head of Legal Services  
Assistant Head of Finance  
Central Finance Management Accountant

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Welsh Church Fund Schedule of Applications 2023/24– Meeting 1 (Appendix 1)

**9. AUTHOR:**

David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

**10. CONTACT DETAILS**

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