

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

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 22nd 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 19th 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 22nd 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 09th 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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