

SUBJECT:	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP
MEETING:	ICMD
DATE:	18th January 2025
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 3 held on Thursday 12th December 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

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

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED 2023/24 – MEETING 3.

1. **St Mary's Church, Magor** requested £1,500 to stop further ingress of water to the Church Chancel that is causing cracking and also the replacement of damaged pipework.

Recommendation: £1,500

2. **St Bartholomew's Church, Llanover** requested £5,000 to assist in renovations to the kitchen area, toilets, and installation of a new disabled toilet. Refurbishment of a meeting room area for community use,

Recommendation: £2,500 awarded to improve the disabled facilities at the church for use by parishioner's and wider community use.

3. **St Mary's & St Michaels Catholic Church, Llanarth** requested £3,000 for draught proofing (Energy conservation) the building by installing internal double doors separating the main body of the church (the Nave), from the main entrance.

Recommendation: £1,500 awarded to assist in energy conservation modifications to the church.

4. **Llandewi Rhydderch Baptist Chapel** requested £5,000 to replace the chapel roof to prevent water ingress, as a local history exhibition is being staged which will be open to the general public.

Recommendation: £2,500 awarded to assist in replacing the chapel roof to prevent water ingress and preserve the interior fabric of the chapel.

5. **Gilwern United Reform Church** requested £2,500 for the repointing of the church walls with lime mortar, and the repairing of the church's windows.

Recommendation: £1,500 awarded to assist in the weatherproofing of the exterior of the church.

6. **Greener Abergavenny** requested £500 to assist in running a Market Hall Fair in 2024 for the purpose of raising the public's awareness of the climate crisis and to help people on how they can become involved.

Recommendation: The application was deferred to enable the applicant to provide further detailed clarification on the specifics of the grant request.

7. **Chepstow and District Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre** requested £2,150 to assist in employing a professional Debt Centre Manager on a 2 days per week basis.

Recommendation: The application was rejected on the grounds that it did not meet the allocation criteria for a grant award.

11. **St. Nicholas's Church, Grosmont** requested £9,500 for assistance in restoring a rare 1845 J W Walker Barrel and Finger organ at the church.

Recommendation: £2,400 awarded to assist in restoring the Barrel mechanism on the organ.

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 12th December 2024 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 3:

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE at meeting 3:

D. Jarrett Central Finance
R. Williams Democratic Services Officer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE at meeting 3

None

CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 19th September 2024.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total of £11,900 has been allocated to applicants at Meeting 3 of the Welsh Church Fund Committee. The balance of £32,227 is available for utilisation within the 2024-25 fiscal year.

7. 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.

8. CONSULTEES:

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

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Church Fund Schedule of Applications 2024/25– Meeting 3 (Appendix 1)

10. AUTHOR:

David Jarrett – Senior Accountant – Central Finance Business Support

11. CONTACT DETAILS

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