

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 27 February 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Applications for Financial Assistance 2023/24 Tranche 4
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for financial assistance funded from the Welsh Church Act Estate.
Report Owner:	Tom Bowring, Director of Resources
Responsible Officer:	Matt Bowmer Head of Finance/ Section 151 officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Not applicable
Policy Framework:	Not applicable
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised budget of £41,963 has been set for issuing grants during 2023/24 reflecting allocations to date and proposed as part of this report. • This includes an unallocated budget amount of £12,120 carried over from 2022/23 is also available for allocation during 2023/24. • On a trial basis the maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been increased from £5,000 to £10,000. • Grants allocated at Committee in June 2023 totalled £10,150. Since that date, a grant awarded in the sum £5,000 has been withdrawn and substituted with a new application in Tranche 4. Therefore, reducing the total grants allocated at the June Committee to £5,150. • Grants allocated at Committee in September 2023 totalled £13,813. • Grants allocated at Committee in December 2023 totalled £3,000. • Further awards totalling £20,000 are recommended as part of this report. 	

Recommendations

1. That Committee considers and approves the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A of this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has delegated authority to manage the trust's affairs in accordance with "The Scheme" the Welsh Church Act Estate as vested in the Council.
- 1.2 The purposes for which the Welsh Church Act fund may make grants is set out in summary at Appendix B to this report.
- 1.3 The applications received are set out in Appendix A to this report.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The revenue outturn for 2022/23 and the projections for 2023/24 are included in Appendix C. Income projections for 2023/24 assume that investment and rental income will be slightly reduced from 2022/23 which reflects the disruption and uncertainty regarding investment returns associated with the transfer to CCLA. Expenditure includes provision for Member training, valuation, and asset maintenance costs.
- 2.2 The projections for 2023/24 include a sum of £12,120 which has been carried forward for grant allocation from 2022/23.
- 2.3 Tranche 1 of 2023/24 grant awards were approved by Committee in June 2023 as set out in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
Penarth Methodist Church	Community Centre Repair & Access Improvements	4,000.00
Forget-Me-Not Chorus	Community Taster Sessions	1,150.00
Croes Y Parc Chapel	Repairs to Boundary Wall	5,000.00
Total		10,150.00

- 2.4** Tranche 2 of 2023/24 grant awards were approved by Committee in September 2023 as set out in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
Penllyn Church	Additional Works following Fire Damage in Autumn 2022	5,000.00
St Peters Church	Quinquennial Urgent Repairs	5,000.00
St Philip Evans Catholic Church	Installation of High-Definition CCTV System	1,978.80
Cardiff Lions RFC LGBT+	Provision of Essential Bus Transport Services	1,833.75
Total		13,812.55

- 2.5** Tranche 3 of 2023/2024 grant awards were approved by Committee in December 2023 as set out in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Awarded
		£
St Catherine's Church	Internal Refurbishment to Church Hall	3,000.00
Total		3,000.00

- 2.6** Appendix A to this report sets out a summary of the applications to be considered. These awards total £20,000 and are summarised in the table below.

Organisation	Scheme	Sum Recommended
		£
Parish Church Of St Nicholas	Repair & Refurbishment of Lychgate	10,000
Croes Y Parc Baptist Church	Urgent repairs to Collapsed Boundary Wall	10,000
Total		20,000.00

- 2.7** Croes Y Parc Baptist Church have withdrawn their application awarded in principle by the Trust in June 2023 (see Tranche 1) and put forward a new application for the Trust to consider at this February 2024 meeting. This is due to a change in circumstances that now requires an urgent solution. The subject of the June 2023 claim was for repairs to the boundary wall retaining the church burial ground. However, on the 28th of December 2023 the wall collapsed, now requiring it to be completely rebuilt at a much greater cost including additional costs of traffic management as the debris was blocking a road.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Trusts actions need to comply with Charity Law and its decisions are independent of the Councils obligations under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** A sum of £10,150 was allocated as part of Tranche 1 for 2023/24 at the June 2023 Committee of which the application from Croes Y Parc Baptist Church has been withdrawn.
- 4.2** A sum of £13,813 was allocated as part of Tranche 2 for 2023/24 at the September 2023 Committee.
- 4.3** A sum of £3,000 was allocated as part of Tranche 3 for 2023/24 at the December 2023 Committee.
- 4.4** It is recommended that an allocation of £20,000 is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report.
- 4.5** The Welsh Church Act Fund retains an unrestricted fund to fund unforeseen costs associated with the maintenance of its investment properties the projected balance at year end as reflected in Appendix C to this report is £139,092.

Employment

- 4.6** There are no direct employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.7** There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023-2024

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

Tranche 4

Committee Date 27th February 2024

APPENDIX A

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
	New Applications					
1	The Parish Church of St Nicholas I Wales, Llandaff	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council Repair and Refurbishment of the Lychgate. In response to the Quinquennial review (2003) The St Nicholas Church Committee has set out a programme of work which begins with the repair and refurbishment of the Victorian lychgate. This is identified as being required as part of the first tranche of activity. Over the years the lychgate has seen many attempts at repair, but condition reports now indicate the need for major restoration work to be undertaken as the structure has been declared unsafe. An appraisal by architects Morgan and Horowskyj of Abergavenny, indicates the extensive nature of the restoration required to the lychgate itself, and also to the paved pathway through the gateway. The Community Council have agreed to cover the costs where the path continues and is not on Church land.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £43,082.75. Financed by Appeal Funds held be Church Committee (£74,141.00 currently available) and a new Public Appeal Launched on St Nicholas Day (6th December 2023) together with the proceeds of this grant application £10,000. Quotations from Taliesin Conservation £28,704.90 (excl. VAT) and Peter Bricknell & Co £28,885 (excl. VAT) included in application together with Audited Accounts as at 31st December 2022 and Lloyds Bank statement. The Constitution and Equal Opportunities are the Church in Wales and are available on their website.
2	Croes y Parc Baptist Church Registered Charity no 1203320	Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council Repair to Boundary Wall -The organisation made a previous application in tranche 1of this year for urgent financial assistance for repairs to the wall retaining church burial ground. This was approved for £5,000 in principle pending approval of grants applied for with other organisations. Since that application the wall has actually collapsed on the 28th December 2023 and what repair work that was originally planned is now not suitable and the costs of rebuild have increased as the whole 23 meters of the wall need to be replaced. In the circumstances the organisation wishes to withdraw their previous application and replace with the claim presented here.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £131,873 which includes a £10,000 contingency which is only payable if required. Financed by Benefact Grant £2,000, Welsh Church Act Grant (this application) £10,000 and Church funds £48,000 which are in place and have been verified by a bank statement. Due to the urgent nature, the works are scheduled to commence on the 18th March 2024 and the balance of the funding requirement is to be provided by 4 members of the Chapel in the form of interest free loans with repayments of circa £410 per month over 15 years or until alternative funding can be arranged. Quote from Quantam Traffic Management £21,220, and RJJ Builders £98,153 included in application, the Vale of Glamorgan Council emergency traffic order and legal costs etc are not available at this time. Also in the application are the churches accounts as of December 2022 and the Church Handbook.
3						
4						
Total Requested / Recommended				£20,000.00	£20,000.00	

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

WELSH CHURCH ACT ESTATE COMMITTEE

The Charitable purposes for which the fund may be applied.

The Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has delegated authority to manage in accordance with “The Scheme” the Welsh Church Act Estate as vested in the Council.

Set out below is a **summary only** of the purposes for which the Fund may be applied:

- (i) **Educational** - Provision of benefits not readily available from other sources, and recreation, social and physical training facilities, at educational establishments, not normally provided by the LEA.
- (ii) **Relief in sickness** - Assistance to persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm, where such assistance is not readily available from other sources.
- (iii) **Relief in need** - Assistance generally or to individuals in need, hardship or distress.
- (iv) **Libraries, museums, art galleries etc.** – Advancing the appreciation of Welsh arts and literature in general.
- (v) **Social and recreational facilities in general.**
- (vi) **Protection of historic buildings etc.** – Promotion of interest in Welsh architecture, history and science in general, for the benefit of Welsh people.
- (vii) **Medical and social research, treatment in general etc.**- Preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society in general. Provision of nurseries, convalescent homes and hostels
- (viii) **Probation etc.** - Assistance to persons on probation or the families thereof.
- (ix) **Blind persons** - Provision of welfare including accommodation.
- (x) **Aged persons** - Provision of accommodation.
- (xi) **Places of worship and burial grounds** – Restoration and maintenance.
- (xii) **Emergencies or disasters** - Directly assisting persons in need.
- (xiii) **Other charitable purposes** – Contributions to charitable organisations not inconsistent with the purposes of the trust.

The above is a précis only of the wide ranging purposes to which the Welsh Church Act Fund may be applied, and in cases of doubt reference should be made to the actual provisions of the scheme document.

WELSH CHURCH ACTS

APPENDIX C

Revenue Estimates 2023/24

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
	As per Accounts	to 31/01/2024	Full Year
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
	£	£	£
Income			
Property Rents and Lease Income	18,930	15,415	19,000
Dividends			
Projected Investment Income	36,073	23,042	30,000
Interest - VoG on £100,000	2,238	1,000	1,000
Total Income	57,241	39,457	50,000
Expenditure			
Training Expenses	175	0	190
Court and Legal Fees	585	100	600
Valuation and Planning	350	0	7,500
Other premises costs e.g. Grounds Maintenance	1,962	0	1,955
Audit Fees	1,617	1,700	1,700
Grants	33,130	41,963	41,963
Total Expenditure	37,819	43,763	53,908
Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-19,422	4,306	3,908
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation		-12,120	-12,120
Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves	19,422	2,814	8,212
Adjusted Total	0	0	-5,000

	Total
Grant Allocation 2022/23	45,250
Awarded at Committee 20/06/2022	-24,840
Awarded at Committee 10/10/2022	-10,000
St Dochdwy, Penarth (Claim withdrawn - Private Funding)	1,710
Balance remaining to be bfwd into 2023/24	12,120

	Total
Grant funds available:	
Grant Allocation 2023/24	41,963
Recommended Tranche 1	-10,150
Recommended Tranche 2	-13,813
Recommended Tranche 3	-3,000
Grant Withdrawal	5,000
Recommended Tranche 4	-20,000
Balance remaining to allocate in year	0

	Total
Reserve Projection	
Opening Reserve 2023/24	143,000
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation	-12,120
Transfer Surplus	8,212
Projected Balance 31st March 2024	139,092