

**MINUTES OF POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, PONTYPOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**In attendance:**

Councillor: Mrs N. P. Parrish (In the Chair)

Councillors in attendance: J. Killick, Ms K. Arthur, Miss L. Clarkson, A. Lang, R. Overton

Officers: Mrs R. Tucker, Ms J. Wright,

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335. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs G. James, Mrs E. Hunt and B. Taylor JP

**RECOMMENDED:** that the apologies be recorded.

336. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors R. Overton and Mrs N. P. Parrish declared an interest in any item relating to Torfaen County Borough Council.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the declarations of interest as outlined above be recorded.

JW

337. **Schedule of Receipts and Payments**

The Committee received the schedule of receipts and payments for January 2020.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the schedule of Receipts & Payments for January 2020 be approved.

338. **Financial Budget Comparison (Monitoring Report)**

The Committee received and considered the financial budget comparison report to the end of January 2020.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the financial budget comparison report to the end of December 2019 be approved.

339. **Local Voluntary Funding**

Local Voluntary Funding was confirmed as follows subject to all the appropriate checks being completed by the Finance Officer.

Cllr Mrs G. James

Torfaen Citizens Advice Bureau - £300.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d) s.142

All Creatures Great and Small - £150.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Cllr G. Davies

Noddfa Church, Abersychan - £150.00  
Fairfield AFC - £75.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976

Vitalize UK - £100.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972 /LGA 2000

Cllr B. Taylor JP

Pontnewynydd History Society - £400.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Cllr Mrs R. Matthews

Salvation Army Pontypool - £500.00  
Charities Act 2003, s.79

Cllr R. Mills

New Inn AFC - £300.00  
Panteg Cricket Club - £200.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976

Torfaen Silver Belles - £200.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d) s145

New Inn Allotments Association - £200.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Cllr R. Overton

St. John Cmyru Wales (Pontypool) - £500.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000  
Torfaen Scouts Active Support - £500.00  
New Inn Junior Football - £500.00  
New Inn Pensioners Association - £500.00  
New Inn AFC - £200.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Cllr N. Byrne

Victoria Village Hall - £100.00  
Noddfa Chapel - £100.00  
Victoria Village OAP Club - £100.00  
Talywain OAP Club - £100.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act  
1976

Cyfannol Women's Aid - £125.00  
Pontypool Library - £100.00  
Families Need Father's - £250.00  
National Autistic Society Cymru - £250.00  
Torfaen Flying Start - £150.00  
TOGs Centre - £100.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Cllr N. Simons

Tranch AFC - £300.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Cllr Mrs N. P. Parrish

St. John's Ambulance, Griffithstown - £75.00  
Friends of Fishpond Park, Panteg - £200.00  
Pontypool Retired Men's Society - £37.50  
Torfaen Museum Trust - £62.50  
TOG's - £100.00  
Needles and Pins - £25.00  
Age Connects Torfaen - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Guides - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Sebastopol Brownies - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Scouts - £100.00  
Golliwopsies Play Group - £100.00  
Pontypool Chrysanthemum's Society - £50.00  
Congregational Church Women's Guild - £50.00  
Friends of Pontypool Park - £50.00  
Griffithstown Allotment Association £62.50  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Ennirocraft Crafting Club - £25.00  
Mello 'D' - £50.00  
Nidus Children's Choir - £37.50  
Torfaen Male Choir - £75.00  
Linden Singers - £50.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d), s.145

Griffithstown Primary School - £75.00  
Ysgol Panteg - £50.00 (only 3 awarded not A. Lang)  
Sebastopol Junior AFC - £125.00

Panteg Cricket Club - £75.00  
Torfaen Qigong - £25.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Netball Club - £50.00  
New Panteg Junior Rugby - £100.00  
Panteg Park Bowls Club - £100.00  
Griffithstown Junior AFC - £100.00  
Pontypool Netball Team (formerly the Swallows) - £50.00  
Panteg AFC - £100.00  
New Panteg RFC - £100.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Club - £50.00  
Pontyfelin Ladies Bowls Club - £50.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Cllr Mrs E. Hunt

St. John's Ambulance, Griffithstown - £75.00  
Friends of Fishpond Park, Panteg - £200.00  
Pontypool Retired Men's Society - £37.50  
Torfaen Museum Trust - £62.50  
TOG's - £100.00  
Needles and Pins - £25.00  
Age Connects Torfaen - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Guides - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Sebastopol Brownies - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Scouts - £100.00  
Golliwopsies Play Group - £100.00  
Pontypool Chrysanthemum's Society - £50.00  
Congregational Church Women's Guild - £50.00  
Friends of Pontypool Park - £50.00  
Griffithstown Allotment Association £62.50  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Ennirocraft Crafting Club - £25.00  
Mello 'D' - £50.00  
Nidus Children's Choir - £37.50  
Torfaen Male Choir- £75.00  
Linden Singers - £50.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d), s.145

Griffithstown Primary School - £75.00  
Ysgol Panteg - £50.00  
Sebastopol Junior AFC - £125.00  
Panteg Cricket Club - £75.00  
Torfaen Qigong - £25.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Netball Club - £50.00  
New Panteg Junior Rugby - £100.00  
Panteg Park Bowls Club - £100.00  
Griffithstown Junior AFC - £100.00  
Pontypool Netball Team (formerly the Swallows) - £50.00

Panteg AFC - £100.00  
New Panteg RFC - £100.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Club - £50.00  
Pontyfelin Ladies Bowls Club - £50.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Cllr B. Rapier

St. John's Ambulance, Griffithstown - £75.00  
Friends of Fishpond Park, Panteg - £200.00  
Pontypool Retired Men's Society - £37.50  
Torfaen Museum Trust - £62.50  
TOG's - £100.00  
Needles and Pins - £25.00  
Age Connects Torfaen - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Guides - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Sebastopol Brownies - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Scouts - £100.00  
Golliwopsies Play Group - £100.00  
Pontypool Chrysanthemum's Society - £50.00  
Congregational Church Women's Guild - £50.00  
Friends of Pontypool Park - £50.00  
Griffithstown Allotment Association £62.50 (A Lang -  
£112.50)  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Ennirocraft Crafting Club - £25.00  
Mello 'D' - £50.00  
Nidus Children's Choir - £37.50  
Torfaen Male Choir- £75.00  
Linden Singers - £50.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d), s.145

Griffithstown Primary School - £75.00  
Ysgol Panteg - £50.00 (only 3 awarded not A. Lang)  
Sebastopol Junior AFC - £125.00  
Panteg Cricket Club - £75.00  
Torfaen Qigong - £25.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Netball Club - £50.00  
New Panteg Junior Rugby - £100.00  
Panteg Park Bowls Club - £100.00  
Griffithstown Junior AFC - £100.00  
Pontypool Netball Team (formerly the Swallows) - £50.00  
Panteg AFC - £100.00  
New Panteg RFC - £100.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Club - £50.00  
Pontyfelin Ladies Bowls Club - £50.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Cllr A. Lang

St. John's Ambulance, Griffithstown - £75.00  
Friends of Fishpond Park, Panteg - £200.00  
Pontypool Retired Men's Society - £37.50  
Torfaen Museum Trust - £62.50  
TOG's - £100.00  
Needles and Pins - £25.00  
Age Connects Torfaen - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Guides - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Sebastopol Brownies - £100.00  
1<sup>st</sup> Griffithstown Scouts - £100.00  
Golliwopsies Play Group - £100.00  
Pontypool Chrysanthemum's Society - £50.00  
Congregational Church Women's Guild - £50.00  
Friends of Pontypool Park - £50.00  
Griffithstown Allotment Association £112.50  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Ennirocraft Crafting Club - £25.00  
Mello 'D' - £50.00  
Nidus Children's Choir - £37.50  
Torfaen Male Choir- £75.00  
Linden Singers - £50.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d), s.145

Griffithstown Primary School - £75.00  
Sebastopol Junior AFC - £125.00  
Panteg Cricket Club - £75.00  
Torfaen Qigong - £25.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Netball Club - £50.00  
New Panteg Junior Rugby - £100.00  
Panteg Park Bowls Club - £100.00  
Griffithstown Junior AFC - £100.00  
Pontypool Netball Team (formerly the Swallows) - £50.00  
Panteg AFC - £100.00  
New Panteg RFC - £100.00  
Griffithstown Ladies Club - £50.00  
Pontyfelin Ladies Bowls Club - £50.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Cllr Mrs J. Taylor

Cyfannol Women's Aid - £300.00  
Richards Field Allotment - £100.00  
Twmpath Allotment Association - £100.00  
Fowlers Field Allotment Association - £100.00

Pantygasseg Residents Association - £250.00  
s.137 Local Government Act 1972/LGA 2000

Torfaen Dolphins - £200.00  
s.19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)  
1976

Needles and Pins - £250.00  
George Street Primary School - £200.00  
Pontypool Writers - £250.00  
Local Government Act 1972 (d) s.145

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Local Voluntary  
Funding grants as listed above be approved  
subject to the LVF forms referred to being  
signed by members.

RT

340. **Review of Restricted Reserves for 2020/2021**

The Committee received a report from the Accountant in respect  
of transferring reserves as follows:

- (i) that an amount of £5,000 be transferred to the  
earmarked election expenses reserve to meet  
the Torfaen County Borough council  
administrative costs, as in previous years,  
associated with future Community council  
elections.
- (ii) that a further £5,000 be transferred to the  
earmarked Twinning Youth Festival Reserve  
and that this amount, together with the  
accumulated balance at the end of the 31<sup>st</sup>  
March 2020 be set aside as an earmarked  
reserve.
- (iii) that £6,244 be utilised from the Community  
Projects reserve towards the budget of new  
Events £5,000 and World War  
Commemorations budget of £1,244.00

It was unanimously agreed that the above reserves be  
transferred as outlined and that the Accountant be thanked.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Council agree to  
transfer the reserves as detailed above.

LM

341. **Financial Management and Governance for Community  
and Town Councils 2018 – 2019**

The Committee received information relating to the financial management and governance of Community and Town Councils for 2018-2019 that the Auditor General for Wales has asked to be circulated to all councils and members. The Chair informed the meeting that the document had concluded 5 concerns arising from his report as follows:

1. Community Councils are managing more money but there is scope to review services and budgets.
2. 66% of councils met the statutory deadline for publishing audited accounts.
3. The number of qualified audits has fallen but remains too high at 218 councils.
4. Significant problems led to public interest reports being issued at 12 councils.
5. The 2019-2020 audit is the final audit under the current arrangements and council view are being sought on the proposed changes.

It was also pointed out under future governance themes that the audit for 2019-2020 will focus on council's official records of its meetings and does the council make appropriate arrangements for publications of the minutes with ease of access to them online. Reference was made to the Council's website and it was agreed that the Clerk ensures that all relevant information in relation to the Council's website is up to date.

**RECOMMENDED:**

(i) that the information in respect of financial management and Governance for Community and Town Councils 2018-2019 be received and the information noted.

(ii) that the Clerk ensures that all information in relation to the Council's website is up to date.

RT/  
AA

342. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Final Report**

The Committee received and considered the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report as it refers to Community Councils. The Clerk confirmed that compensation for financial loss (13.19) of the report is also taxable. The Committee noted that there would be representatives from the IRPW attending the full Council meeting in April if members had any questions.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be received and the information noted.



343. **Financial Requests**

The Committee received requests for financial assistance from Wales Air Ambulance Charity and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity. It was unanimously agreed that each charity be awarded £250.00

**RECOMMENDED:** that £250.00 be awarded to both Wales Air Ambulance and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.

CC

344. **Wings to Fly**

The Committee received a request from Heddlu Gwent Police for funding to purchase wristbands for the children who will be attending the Wings to fly performances this year. It was agreed that before a financial decision could be approved that Heddlu Gwent Police be asked to provide more information in respect of how many pupils would be attending from the Pontypool area, as well as enquiring if Cwmbran and Blaenavon Community Councils had been approached with the same request. The Deputy Leader also enquired whether an evaluation exercise has ever been undertaken after a 12 month period on the effectiveness of the production.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Heddlu Gwent Police be contacted to ascertain the information requested by the Committee.

RT

Chair of Policy & Finance