



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 18 November 2021 at 12 noon

Meeting held via Zoom

1. Introductions and Welcome

The Chair, Peter Davies welcomed members to the virtual meeting and informed members the meeting will be recorded.

The Chair introduced the virtual top table Ruth Marks, Chief Executive and Jonathan Evans, Treasurer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence received from 3 members and WCVA President, Michael Sheen were noted.

3. Minutes of the meeting held via zoom Thursday 19 November 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Presentation of WCVA's Annual Report for 2020/21

The Chair, on behalf of the Board thanked the Chief Executive and the staff team for their leadership and work over the last 12 months.

The Chief Executive presented the Annual Report to members which also included a short animated video showcasing some of the highlights from 2019 and the start of 2020. The Chief Executive reflected on the significant change of pace during the year and spoke about some of the biggest impacts from our work.

In summary:

- WCVA completely switched attention to make sure we were providing the essential information, advice and funding to enable the sector to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- By working with County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) we were able to support volunteer led and community responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Together with CVCs across Wales we form the Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) partnership. A key partnership for WCVA. The TSSW operates in every Local Authority across Wales. Working together as TSSW we provide a set of core services to the sector and this partnership has gone from strength to strength
- Part of the TSSW shared ambition is to have effective digital platforms to support the sector across all areas of our work. The Volunteering Wales platform came into its own in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- It was great to be able to thank volunteers during volunteers week and we also had a special campaign Not the Welsh charity Awards. This had excellent feedback from the sector because we were able to recognise and give appreciations to charities and voluntary groups all over the country.
- We strengthened the voice of the voluntary sector with Government ensuring that our response to the Covid-19 pandemic was valued and supported. From a meaningful voluntary sector manifesto to influence the Welsh Government elections to a robust Covid-19 recovery report as part of the Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC) to our recommendations being included in a Senedd Committee report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the voluntary sector.
- We continued our work to support Local Nature Partnerships, culture and heritage projects and also distributed funds through EU programmes supporting training and employment work.
- We pushed ourselves very hard indeed to make sure our voice was heard and recognized and through effective stakeholder relations plus the use of evidence and data, we have been able to firmly position the sectors' value and impact with WG, WLGA, NHS in Wales and many other partners.
- We also focused activity to increase our engagement with the UK Government. Specifically we wanted to monitor the developments as regards the replacement funding for EU funds that we have been accessing on behalf of the sector for many years.

- Global issues especially climate change and increasing inequalities are right at the top of the sectors and our agendas.
- The voluntary sector has never been more needed and there are opportunities and challenges ahead for all of us. WCVA will be here for our members our partners and the sector.
- This is the first full year operating outside the EU institutional framework but as the only NGO in the UK to be an Intermediate Body (IB) our role to assess applications and distribute EU funds continues. We have ensured grants have gone to those organisations who are determined to help people into volunteering training and ultimately employment proving the worth of the sector in an economic sense.

The Chief Executive thanked all of our partners, funders, the WCVA staff team, trustee board, our Vice Presidents Margaret Thorne CBE DL and Tom Jones OBE and President Michael Sheen, all of whom are committed to serve our members and the voluntary sector in Wales. A special thank you to our members for engaging with WCVA and making sure that together we make a bigger difference and have a strong shared voice.

A short animated video was played to highlight more of our work, in summary:

- £47m distributed in grants and loans which is more than triple the funding WCVA delivered in 2019/2020. £27.8 m of this was related to Covid-19.
- Delivered 85 online sessions to over 2,500 participants
- Published more than 50 Covid-19 blogs and guidance resources
- By working with CVCs we helped more volunteers safely step up during the pandemic using the TSSW Volunteering Wales platform
- 14,019 volunteers registered on Volunteering Wales
- 1,213 new volunteering opportunities were posted
- 23,291 volunteering hours logged
- Worked with the sector to produce the 2021 Voluntary Sector Manifesto ahead of the Senedd elections
- Facilitated 15 meetings between government and the voluntary sector

Members received the Annual Report 2020/21.

The Chair thanked the staff team and the Chief Executive for her leadership through what has been an unprecedented year like no other.

5. Guest speaker, Sian Lewis, CEO, Urdd: The Urdd, Covid-19 and the centenary

Members welcomed guest speaker Sian Lewis.

Sian provided a brief history and the work of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru. The Urdd was established in 1922 to give children and young people in Wales opportunities to learn and socialise in Welsh.

The Urdd has 60,000 members (8-25 year olds) and 10,000 volunteers with an economic value of £31m in Wales.

The Apprenticeship scheme provides opportunities for people to gain employment, practical experience and professional qualifications.

The #Heddwch 2021 is an annual Peace and Goodwill message that is unique to Wales. The message has been delivered annually for 100 years by the young people of Wales, addressed to young people all over the world. This year the theme is equality for women and young girls. Politicians, organisations and celebrities across the world recognise and support the message. Hilary Clinton has shown her support for the message on twitter!

Last March the Urdd completed a £1.2m capital works for Glan-Llyn Isa, Bala, a new Urdd centre.

In February this year the Urdd received £1m of additional funds from Welsh Government. This fund was to help rebuild the organisation and their services. It helped to stabilise the number of staff, which they had already lost due to the pandemic. This fund helped create 60 new jobs around Wales.

In September the Urdd helped to accommodate 21 families from Afghanistan at the centre in Cardiff.

The Urdd looks forward to celebrating its centenary in 2022.

6. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021

The chair wished to recognise the role of PwC to enable Jonathan Evans to undertake the role of WCVA Treasurer.

The Treasurer thanked the Board of Trustees and welcomed Colin Arnold as Deputy Treasurer and Will Wildridge who both contribute to

the work of the Finance Committee (FC). Thanks to Trustee, Helen White who is also a member of the FC.

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the 12 months to 31 March 2021 via a pre-recorded video message accompanied by Elen Notley, Marketing and Membership Manager with the help of some lego to bring the numbers to life!

Headline figures included:

- Income
 - The year to March 2021 saw a significant increase in income to £51m, an increase of 140% and an increase of £30m over and above WCVA's income in the previous year which was £21.2m.
 - A vast majority of the income was restricted. £47.5m of the £51m with approx. £3.5m relating to unrestricted income. An increase from £2.7m to £3.5m
- Expenditure:
 - The Treasurer acknowledged the impressive staff team who responded at pace to opportunities that arose during the year in order to distribute the funds as quickly as possible to the sector.
 - Overall expenditure of £49.7m is an increase on the year before which was £20.9m. Of the £51m, approx. £49.7 million was expenditure leaving a difference of £1.3m.
 - 85% of expenditure went straight back out to the sector.
- Reserves:
 - £1.3m is the difference between the income and expenditure which in an ordinary year would be an incredible outcome for WCVA and represents the ability to reinvest in and support and sustain the sector over the longer term.
 - Unfortunately, in addition to this big effort WCVA has encountered some exceptional items that have come through the accounts, by and large items that are out of our control from an accounting perspective. Most significant as discussed in previous years is in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme. As a result of changes in the stock market and value of investments there has been an actuarial deficit of an additional £0.2m.
 - Operational surplus for the year is taken back to an overall deficit for the year of £773K and that is after accounting for some other movements in the revaluation reserve and in investments

- Grants:
 - WCVA has seen an increase of 429 grants, a 110% increase on the year before, so approx. 870 grants have gone out to the sector with an increase in the value of the grants on average increasing from £37k to just over £53k. More grants at a higher value on average which is important.

The Treasurer wished to recognise the contribution of the staff teams in achieving this output with particular thanks to the Finance team led by Tracey Marsh, Finance Director.

The Treasurer acknowledged the work of WCVA's external Auditors Bevan Buckland LLP with particular thanks to Alison Vickers and Johnathan Dight.

It was noted WCVA received an unqualified audit opinion.

Members received the statement of accounts for 2020/21.

7. Guest speaker, Ewan Hilton, CEO, Platform Adapting to change whilst sticking to the plan - delivering on purpose and strategy in a crisis

Members welcomed guest speaker Ewan Hilton from the mental health and social change charity Platform, previously known as Gofal.

Ewan shared his reflections on issues around charity sustainability, diversity and system change.

Importance of a clear vision, purpose, values and culture and the art of not knowing (negative capability)!

Ewan gave a shout out to Platform's newly appointed chair designate Ubongabasi Obot who was in attendance.

Platform had received financial support through the Third Sector Resilience Fund during the pandemic which enabled them to reach many more people and supported over 8,000 people last year, particularly for access to talking therapies for people who were struggling. Thanks to WCVA and Welsh Government.

8. Election results of members to WCVA Board (Resolution 1)

The chair informed members that WCVA had received 15 nominations for the 7 vacant places on the Board. The Chair reminded attendees before moving to the vote that it is only WCVA members who are able to approve the results of the election/ballot with 1 vote per member organisation.

Guests who do not hold voting rights were transferred to a breakout room to watch a short video whilst voting took place.

The Chair presented the results of the election and ballot of members to WCVA's Board. The following individuals were elected outright for the 7 places available on the Board.

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| Rocio Cifuentes | Chief Executive, Ethnic Youth Support Team, Wales |
| Lindsay Cordery-Bruce | Chief Executive, The Wallich |
| Rhian Davies | Chief Executive, Disability Wales |
| Menai Owen-Jones | Vice Chair, Cardiff Metropolitan University |
| Joe Stockley | Communications Officer, Diverse Cymru |
| Fran Targett | Chair, Welsh Government National Advice Network Member, Future Generations Commissioner Audit and Risk Assurance Committee |
| Kate Young | Director, All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers for People with Learning Disabilities |

Members were requested to type APPROVE in the chat function or to raise any objections.

There were no objections raised and members approved resolution 1 – election of members to WCVA's Board.

The Chair wished to thank retiring members Helen White, Liz Girling and Sara Moseley.

The Chair took the opportunity to inform members that he will be standing down from the Board in November 2022 following a total of 11 years on the Board and 8 years as Chair.

It was noted WCVA will begin a recruitment search for a new chair towards the end of November 2021, managed by Acorn Recruitment. The closing date for applications is 14 January with interviews taking place in February. A shadow Chair is hoped to be in place around the springtime to be able to work alongside the current Chair until the end of his term.

The Chair stated it has been a huge honour, privilege and responsibility but above all fun to chair WCVA!

It was noted Tracey Lewis, Company Secretary will be managing the recruitment process.

9. Walter Dickie Bursary Award

WCVA is delighted to support the Bursary Award and today's relaunch of the fund. It was noted the fund has awarded 3 bursaries up to 2019.

Phil Fiander, ex Director of Operations at WCVA before his retirement and now Chair, Welsh Government's Funding and Compliance Sub-Committee of the Third Sector Partnership Council recorded a short video message encouraging members to apply and share the opportunity with others.

10. Close

The Chair gave a special thank you to the guest speakers and thanked Rhodri Jones, Head of Digital Services and Elen Notley, Marketing and Membership Manager for their 'behind the scenes' support.

The Chair highlighted the network lunches taking place directly after the meeting and the annual lecture being delivered at 2pm by Katherine Trebeck, co-founder and Strategic Advocacy Advisor, Wellbeing Economy Alliance and co-founder of WEAll Scotland

The Chair wished to thank WCVA's Board of Trustees, the Chief Executive, and staff team for the fantastic work they have done throughout 2020.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 1:12 pm.