



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19 November 2020 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 from 5 members were noted.

3. Minutes of the meeting held at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, Thursday 21 November 2019

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Presentation of WCVA's Annual Report for 2019/20

The Chair, on behalf of the Board thanked the Chief Executive and the staff team for their work over what has been an interesting and challenging period.

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 some of the change of pace during the year and highlighted some of the biggest impacts from our work.

In summary:

- 2020 has been a year like no other. The resilience, passion and commitment of the sector has been amazing.
- WCVA is a connector engaging with our members and partners to help influence action and change. This year we have connected with more people with different experiences and interests than ever before. Engaging with public and private sectors to access money, ppe and many other essentials.
- Influencing the furlough scheme and providing significant support for charities and community groups. Some of our funders and partners are here today, thank you for all your support, we really appreciate it.
- WCVA is a partner in the Civil Society Forum on Brexit and by working with the Wales Governance Centre (part of Cardiff University) and our members, we have been able to gather and share evidence and help the sector prepare for the changes ahead. All this while continuing to help the sector using European funds to support all sorts of projects including education, training and employment. All vital contributions to the Welsh economy and civil society.
- WCVA has a real expertise in identifying resources, administering grant funds and distributing money to the sector. These skills were useful in the earlier part of this year when we were able to provide support to groups working with people affected by the storms and flooding.
- WCVA distributed over £75,000 to people supporting communities effected by storm Dennis. This is in addition to funds that we distribute to projects and good causes in this country and overseas and in total WCVA administered over £14.5 m to the sector across wales and oversees during 2019/20.
- Volunteers are at the heart of our work and the role of volunteers in charities has never been more evident than during the covid pandemic. In the words of the First Minister the work of volunteers has been invaluable.
- Partnerships are vital to WCVA. WCVA is a partner in the TSSW, a network of CVC and volunteer centres supporting the sector across the country. The commitment, knowledge and experience of our CVC colleagues has always been a source of inspiration and never more so than during the Covid19 response where local based solutions were often in place ahead of other activity.
- A great highlight from the year, our first Welsh Charity Awards hosted in the National Museum of Wales in the company of over

200 attendees. We recognized and celebrated many charities and volunteers from all over Wales.

The Chief Executive thanked members for sharing our values and belief that we make a bigger difference together, partners, funders, trustees, President, Vice Presidents, and the great staff team.

Members received the Annual Report for 2019/20.

5. Guest speaker, Elin Maher: Being useful in challenging times

Members welcomed guest speaker Elin Maher, consultant at Cyfrwng. Elin is also an active member of the Third Sector Partnership Council (TSPC).

We are all aware how important digital communication has become especially over the past few months but digital is not a one size fits all concept or practical tool. Elin discussed the role she has played in co-ordinating a real partnership approach to engaging Welsh speakers who may not have had access to the internet and how we have all had to adapt in these different times.

In partnership with WCVA, Merched y Wawr, Eisteddfod, Age Cymru, Mentrau Iaith and TSSW a new phone line was developed, Cynllun Cyfaill Cymru/Friends in Wales. The phone line connects digitally excluded people to a befriending service during the pandemic.

The advert for this service, as advertised on S4C was played.

6. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/2020

The chair wished to recognise the role of PwC to enable Jonathan Evans to undertake this critical role as WCVA treasurer.

The Treasurer presented the group audited annual accounts for the 12 months to 31 March 2020. The annual accounts were approved by WCVA's Board on 9 September 2020 and received an unqualified opinion by the Auditors Bevan Buckland LLP.

Some headline figures included:

- During the year WCVA generated total operating income £21.2m. In total this represents a 28.4% increase on the previous year. This income comprises restricted income of £18.5m up just over 32%

on last year. Of the income £18.2m is grants received from 12 sources.

- Notable movements in the year include £1.2 m from Comic Relief an increase of 3.8 % to 8.4% from WEFO and a reduction of £382K from Welsh Government and other decreases amounting to £575k. Although there are 12 sources, the same number as last year, there is a significant amount of movement in the nature of the sources. This represents WCVAs success in identifying new sources as others expire.
- Restricted income also includes £210k in investment income, a small reduction on prior year and £36k from training and publicity which is down 37% on prior year.
- Unrestricted income of 2.7% is up by 10% on prior year which includes trading income which is down across all areas by just under £50k. However, this is made up for in grants receivable which is just over £320k or 35% to £1.24 m.
- Operating costs total £20.9m representing a 26% increase on prior year made up of £18.2m in restricted and £2.7m in unrestricted. Both up 30% and 6% respectively on prior year.
- Restricted expenditure includes 388 grants paid to the sector total £14.6m which is up 36% on prior year and includes £2.7m of match funding.
- Therefore, at a high level in total income has increased 29% on prior year, grants to the sector increased 36% and direct charitable expenditure which supports and enables these outcomes has increased by only 7.7%. This demonstrates the focus and attention of management and staff at WCVA in making effective use of resources.
- The consolidated net income in £223k which represents a good outturn for the year and ahead of budget. There are some important adjustments below the line including a £1.3m actuarial loss on the defined benefit pension scheme and other negative movements relating to revaluation of fixed assets and investments of £123k. The consolidated net movement in funds is a negative £1.2 m.
- Net Assets held £7.18m down just over 14% primarily as mentioned because of the revaluation movement on fixed assets and the actuarial loss on pensions
- Together with a net increase in cash during the year £272k this stands WCVA in a good position to support the sector in the future.

The Board and senior management team are focused on a financial strategy of prudence and care to ensure the safeguarding of WCVAs

financial position to support the ongoing sustainability of the organization and to maximise the overall return for the sector.

There is continued significant focus on this in this year and opportunity in particular in relation to our property strategy.

Our excellent finance team has worked across the organization to transform the approach for annual budgeting. This supports work underway currently to refresh our 5-year financial plan with an emphasis on supporting WCVA to be able to respond quickly and appropriately to opportunities as they arise. Including most recently in relation to Covid19 emergency funding.

In addition to a change in external auditor approved by members last year on a 3-year term it has been a busy year for the finance team.

The Treasurer thanked the Director of Finance, Tracey Marsh, and the finance team for their dedication, and on behalf of the Board wished to thank Alison Vickers and Johnathan Dight from Bevan Buckland LLP.

The Treasurer also wished to thank WCVA's Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Members received the statement of accounts for 2019/20.

7. Guest speaker, Nigel Ward: May I carry that for you #ItsWhatWeDo

Members welcomed guest speaker Nigel Ward, Chairman, Blood Bikes Wales. Blood Bikes Wales provide a free courier service for the NHS relying solely on volunteers and donations to offer this service. Operations are dispersed across 8000 sq miles of Wales.

Nigel provided an insight into how Blood Bikes Wales have been operating during the pandemic whilst staying true to their charitable objects.

8. Close

The Chair highlighted WCVA's online campaign #NotTheWelshCharityAwards which ran during October to highlight and recognise the amazing work undertaken by the voluntary sector and volunteers during the year. The campaign was launched as the Welsh Charity Awards were not able to take place this year.

A short campaign video was played to say a big thank you/diolch yn fawr to everyone working within the sector.

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 12:55 pm.

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