



## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 17 November 2022 at 1.45pm

One Canal Parade, Dumballs Road, Cardiff, CF10 5BF  
(Business Centre, ground floor)

<b>WCVA members in attendance</b>	
All Wales Forum	National Trust Cymru
Association of Charity Independent Examiners	NWAMI
C3SC	Papyrus
Community Transport Association	GAVO
Dasmais Singh Sabha Gurdwara Bhatra	Settled
Disability Wales	Shelter Cymru
Ethnic Youth Support Team	The Menter Ring
Grow Cardiff	The Wallich
Keep Wales Tidy	Valleys Kids
	VAMT

### **1. Introductions and Welcome**

The Chair, Peter Davies CBE welcomed members, guest speakers, Johnathan Dight from Bevan Buckland and Vice President Tom Jones to the meeting.

The Chair informed members that Ruth Marks, Chief Executive was unable to attend in person due to illness and would be joining remotely.

The Chair introduced the top table Colin Arnold, Treasurer and Matt Brown, Director of Operations.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence received from 8 members.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held via zoom Thursday 18 November 2021**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Sujatha Thalidi from the Mentor Ring requested that members in attendance be included in the AGM minutes.

## **4. Presentation of WCVA's Annual Report for 2021/22**

The Chair, on behalf of the Board thanked the Chief Executive for her leadership over the last 12 months.

The Chief Executive presented the Annual Report via a pre-recorded message to members which also included a short animated video showcasing some of the key highlights from the 2021/2022 Annual Report.

Key messages from the Chief Executive:

- 2021/22 was the second year of operating during the Covid pandemic. WCVA had to continue to deliver and consider ways to support the sector that combined the familiar with the new. We had to increase our resilience in order to continue to serve our members through what was becoming a theme of constant change.
- The Annual Report is absolute testament to the fact that WCVA did deliver. Our output was hugely significant in terms of the funds we processed, the messages we communicated, the knowledge and information we shared.
- As always we focused our support to the sector on what our members and the sector said they needed. Grants or loans to survive, tools and advice to thrive and opportunities to demonstrate the added value of volunteers, voluntary action and the power of a united voluntary sector.
- None of this would be possible without the excellent relationships that we have with a huge number of diverse networks and partners across Wales, the UK and further afield. I particularly want to mention the County Voluntary Councils. Working together as Third Sector Support Wales, we are a unique infrastructure that works closely with familiar organisations

including local authorities and health boards. We also make sure that the sector is well placed in terms of new opportunities.

During 2021/22 these have included involvement in the development of the National Nature Service; membership of the Shadow Social Partnership Council convened by Welsh Government; work with UK wide Civil Society partners; in addition to better use of data and digital systems to maximise our impact.

- In 2021/22 WCVA not only delivered but exceeded the high expectations set out in our plans.
- Output is nothing without impact and this is certainly one area that we have paid considerable attention to over the past 12 months. Members and other partners want us to use our resources in the most effective way possible and this brings me to my final points about the future.
- AGMs and Annual Reports always need to take a look back at what has happened – and of course that is important. However, I think it is useful to make some comments to bring us up to date and to look ahead. There was a great deal of change up to end of March 2022, but even more since. The escalation of the war in Ukraine, the cost of living crisis, several significant UK Government changes and increased uncertainty for the Welsh Government in terms of fiscal arrangements.
- In April of this year we launched our new strategy based on indepth engagement with our members and partners. We have 3 clear goals:
  - The voluntary sector to be more diverse and resilient
  - That voluntary organisations are equal partners in achieving well-being in Wales
  - WCVA is more resilient
- WCVA's future sustainability requires us to have our finger on the pulse with our members, to maintain good relations with all funders and partners and also to seek out new relationships where these will help deliver our strategy.
- WCVA is currently in the midst of a change programme, these times are never easy and often not straight forward, but they are needed. We are focused on the goal of providing the best support to our members and being the most effective organisation possible to serve the diverse voluntary sector in Wales.

And finally, thank you to:

- all our funders, advisers and partners
- our President Michael Sheen and our Vice Presidents Margaret Thorne CBE DL and Tom Jones OBE

- A special thanks to all our Board members for your support and scrutiny of our work, we really appreciate the time that you all give so generously.
- The amazing WCVA staff team, not only have they worked incredibly and consistently hard but they have also shown real commitment to the essence and purpose of our charitable objectives and reason for being.

Members received the Annual Report 2021/22.

The Chair thanked WCVA's staff team for their work over the past 12 months.

## **5. Guest speaker, Momena Ali, Founder, Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST) Inclusion; choice or necessity?**

Members welcomed guest speaker Momena Ali from EYST, who was the winner of the Volunteer of the Year award of the Welsh Charity Awards held in 2019.

Momena discussed the moral and business case benefits of focusing on an inclusive culture and embracing diversity for society to live more harmoniously.

Momena referenced personal and professional experiences and presented in an insightful and compelling way.

The Chair wished to send his best wishes to Rocio Cifuentes, ex CEO of EYST and ex Trustee of WCVA who stood down from the Board in March 2022 to take up the post of Children's Commissioner for Wales.

## **6. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/2022**

The Treasurer thanked Tracey Marsh, Finance Director, the Finance team, the Finance Committee and WCVA's external auditors Bevan Buckland LLP, Johnathan Dight and Alison Vickers.

The Treasurer also wished to thank Jonathan Evans, outgoing Treasurer who left in March 2022 for a smooth handover.

Members noted WCVA received an unqualified audit opinion.

Headline figures included:

- During the year WCVA generated total operating income of £38.77m
- Operating costs were £35.5m
- Group restricted income of £33.8m
- Group unrestricted income of £5.2m
- Group restricted expenditure £32.8m
- Group unrestricted expenditure £2.8m
- Pension assets £25.9m
- Pension liabilities £24.7m
- Pension surplus of £1.2m compared to a £3.3m deficit in the previous year
- Over £28.9m was paid out in grants and loans
- General unrestricted reserves of £6.05m
- It was noted there are challenging times ahead over the next few years and WCVA is in a strong position to support the sector.

Members received the statement of accounts for 2021/22.

## **7. External auditors, Bevan Buckland LLP – extension of the term of office (Resolution 1)**

WCVA wish to extend the current appointment of the auditors, Bevan Buckland LLP (which commenced 1 April 2020 for a period of three years) for a further 2 years.

The resolution was passed by WCVA members to extend the appointment Bevan & Buckland LLP.

The Chair wished to thank the Treasurer, finance team and the Finance Committee.

## **8. Guest speaker, Heddyr Gregory, Press Officer, Shelter Cymru The Housing Crisis**

Members welcomed guest speaker Heddyr Gregor from Shelter Cymru, an organisation that offers free confidential and independent housing advice.

Heddyr highlighted the issues around the cost of living crisis and the housing crisis in Wales. Presenting bi-lingually, Heddyr shared information relating to people and systems that was highly informative.

## **9. Election results of members to WCVA Board (Resolution 2)**

The Chair informed members that WCVA had received 14 excellent nominations in this year's Trustee election and wished to thank all of the nominees who put themselves forward to stand in the election.

The Chair presented the results of the election and ballot of members stating that the following individuals were elected outright for the 5 places available on the Board.

The Chair wished to thank all members who voted.

Reham Bassal	Digital Marketing Executive, WarmZilla
Simon Harris	Wales representative, Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)
Lowri Jones	Chief Executive, Menter Iaith, Sir Caerphilly
Kathryn Luckock	Founder & Director, Share Impact Ltd
Neil Wooding	Executive Director, The Cabinet Office

Members approved resolution 2.

The Chair wished to thank all Board members for their commitment and support over the past year, in particular, special thanks to retiring members Steve Brooks and Lisa Davies.

## **10. Close**

The outgoing Chair, Peter Davies informed members that it had been an honour to chair WCVA's Board and thanked the Board for their support and commitment to WCVA and the third sector. Special thanks to Fran Targett (Vice Chair), trustee Simon Harris (Chair, Audit & Risk Committee), Finance Committee members, the Chief Executive and staff team for the fantastic work they have done throughout 2022. Special thanks also to the staff team past and present for their support during his time as Chair.

The incoming Chair, Dr Neil Wooding CBE, gave special thanks to Peter Davies for inheriting a great legacy and chairing the Board over the past 8 years.

Fran Targett (Vice Chair) wished to thank the outgoing Chair and informed him that having the full agreement of the Board of Trustees the Board would like to officially invite Peter Davies to be a third Vice

President of WCVA. Peter Davies accepted the role and will be joining Vice Presidents Tom Jones OBE and Margaret Thorne CBE DL.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 2.40 pm.

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