



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held: on Friday 29th September 2023 at 10.00am by ZOOM

Present:

Members: Amanda Rees, Angharad Dalton, Babs Lewis, Ben Pritchard, Cadi Cliff Casey Edwards, Catherine Evans, Chris Campbell, Daniel Roberts, David Madge, David Jenkins, Derek Walker, Donna Coyle, Gareth Yoeman-Evans, Glenn Bowen, Grahame Sturges, Jeff Andrews, Joanne Jones, Jocelle Lovell, John Chown, KC Gordon, Kit Wilson, Mike Williams, Nigel Keane, Paula Lunnon, Richard Hughes, Roger Seddon, Simon Harris and Vicki Roskams.

Member Admin: Elin Evans.

Non-Members: Bethan Webber, Esther Price, Kath Griffiths, Lesley Jones, Linzi Jones, Lorraine Oates, Lydia Powell, Marc Davies, Matthew Llewelyn, Mike O'Hara, Nisreen Mansour, Rachael Hobbs, Rosie Barnes and Simon Jones.

Members not in attendance but having appointed a proxy to vote on their behalf:

Angela Overment, Claire White, Kathy Rivett, Maggie Gomez, Matthew Close, Sarah Owens.

Minutes: Sarah Beal, Office Co-ordinator.

1. Chair's welcome and opening remarks

David Jenkins welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a quick summary of the previous year noting that it has been a time of great change both for the sector and within Cwmpas. He thanked Glenn Bowen for his contribution as Interim Chief Executive, crediting him for steering the organisation through the period smoothly and seamlessly. He also paid tribute to Derek Walker's contribution to Cwmpas over his 13 year tenure, cementing the organisations position as the largest co-operative development agency in the UK. Derek had kindly agreed to step in as a speaker since George Howarth MP had not ultimately been able to attend.

2. Introducing the New Chief Exec

David Jenkins introduced the new Chief Exec, Bethan Webber, to the membership. He mentioned the rigorous process used to select from a strong



field and provided a potted history of her background. The last few months have been extremely busy but the chair was happy that the reins of organisation had been passed to someone who could continue to move the organisation forward and that they had appointed the first female to take the helm.

3. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from George Howarth MP (scheduled speaker), David Smith and Jacqueline Wilding. Angharad Dalton (Board Member) was scheduled to arrive a little late.

4. Guest Speaker – Derek Walker. Future Generations Commissioner.

Derek Walker had agreed to speak in the place of George Howarth MP who was ultimately unable to attend.

Derek described his recent visit to Câr-y-Môr, a community owned sea-weed farm using regenerative ocean farming techniques to improve the local environment and improve the lives of the local community. This organisation, which has recently received support from the future generations commission, have benefitted from help and support from Cwmpas. A great example of the impact that Cwmpas has within the third sector and beyond and our synergies with the goals of Welsh Government. Derek explained that having left Cwmpas gives a new perspective on the scale of the positive well-being outcomes and social impact that Cwmpas delivers.

The Future Generations Act and Commission demonstrate a unique and ground-breaking commitment by the Welsh Government to positive far-reaching changes, which has garnered much interest internationally (for example within the United Nations). We are seeing the impact of the legislation now but there is more to be done to fully realise its potential and that will be the focus going forward. Following an initial period of exploration Derek stated he will shortly be publishing his priorities will focus around 5 Missions with emphasis upon the how (delivery, convening, impact).

Derek encouraged Cwmpas to remain committed to doing what we do and especially to communicate our impact, drawing more attention to the communities we are trying to help.

5. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

There were no matters of correction raised. The minutes were accepted as a true record by the membership.



6. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

There were no matters arising.

7. Secretary's report (impact report)

Bethan Webber walked the membership through the main features of the impact report for 2022-23, a time of great change for Cwmpas, not least the change in leadership.

The SBW programme's transition to SBW 2 has been a major change for the organisation, requiring some organisational restructuring and new ways of working.

Bethan highlighted the challenge of "Net Zero" faced by society as a whole as a major catalyst for reimagining society along more inclusive and regenerative lines. Cwmpas must seize this opportunity since our mission and our ambitions have never been more relevant. The "Care Agenda" is another major theme, Cwmpas have been working in partnership to develop models and innovations which could help move the sector forwards.

Lots of work has been going on internally over recent months to ensure that Cwmpas is able to come through the current, challenging conditions strongly. This has included: cross-Wales strategic planning sessions involving staff from every region and project; commissioning a funding review drawing on external expertise; examining working practices including exploring piloting a reduced working week (along the 4-day working week lines).

Bethan praised the skill and commitment of the team, thanking the staff as a whole for their contribution and the Senior Leadership team for their part in supporting her transition into the Chief Exec role.

There were no questions, the report was received by the membership.

8. Presentation of 2021-22 Audited Accounts

Cwmpas' Treasurer, Jeff Andrews, presented the 2022-23 accounts, which had been reviewed by the Risk and Audit Committee (with the Auditor present) and approved by the Board.

Jeff confirmed that Cwmpas was presenting a set of clean and unqualified accounts with a turnover of £7.3M for the year, a surplus of £88K and finishing the year with a strong set of reserves of over £1M.

Cwmpas

The year-end statement was consistent with the management accounts provided during the year which, he said, was a credit to the finance team and the financial controls in place. Jeff remarked that this was the first year with a new Auditor and that he was satisfied with the findings and the overall positive outcome.

Jeff expressed his opinion that a strong demand for Cwmpas offering going forwards and he remains confident in Cwmpas' future success and commended the Accounts to the membership for approval.

There were no questions, the membership received the Accounts.

9. Election of Directors

David Jenkins advised the members that there were three vacancies and three candidates. He provided a brief description of each of the candidates and invited the membership to appoint each of them.

The meeting formally moved to elect the candidates

- Nigel Keane

The election of candidate was approved.

The meeting formally moved to elect the candidate:

- Babs Lewis

The election of candidate was approved.

The meeting formally moved to elect the candidate:

- Grahame Sturges

The election of candidate was approved.

10. Appointment of Auditors

The AGM received and approved the decision of the Board to re-appoint Haines Watts as the Auditor for the forthcoming financial period.

11. David Jenkins - Farewell

A short farewell film, celebrating Cwmpas' journey and David's contribution to the establishment and continued success of the organisation was played. Current and past Chief Execs Bethan Webber and Derek Walker both said a few words about David, noting his impact and thanking him for his longstanding support of

cwmpas

Cwmpas, the Co-operative movement and the third sector as a whole. This was echoed by contributions from Simon Jones (Chief Exec WCC), Simon Harris (Chief Exec WCC), Lesley Jones (Deputy-Chief Exec WCC) who each shared their thoughts and memories across the years.

David Jenkins said that he had had the privilege of acting as chair for a number of organisations over the years, but that Cwmpas will always retain a special place in his heart. He is very proud of all that it has achieved, empowering people to take control of their own future and adopting new, co-operative ways of working. Although he is leaving, he remains supportive of the organisation and looks forward to seeing what we will go on to achieve in the future.

12. AOB

None.

The meeting closed at 11.40

Signed:

Dated: