

# CHAWREC MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE UNITY CENTRE, 17 CUPPIN ST, CHESTER.

Wednesday June 13th 2013 @ 6:30pm

## Present:

### ***Individual Members***

TK Al-Jorani, Hammideh Brice, John Cummins, Ram Darigala, Peter Frost, Shamla Naidu, Abdush Shaheen, Bhupinder Virdee-Lace,

### ***Organisational Members***

Carol Berry (CVA), Kate Bond (WCMCWG), Elizabeth Bott (Cheshire Asian and Minority Communities Council), Eric Bowers (Chester Bahai's), Joan Bowers (Chester Bahai's), Abdun Noor (Cheshire Asian and Minority Communities Council), Heather Swainston (Cheshire DEC), Annemarie Theilade (Cheshire Probation Service)

### ***Non Members***

Irina Chapman (Kolobok), Corrine Thomason

### ***Staff:***

Shantele Janes, Anita Dean and Valerie Donnelly (minutes)

## Apologies:

### ***Individual Members***

Yumi Andrews, Murial Benyon, Mrs Lesley Riley, Shamen Naidu, Prue Wendt

### ***Organisational Members***

Sheila Brook (Phoenix), Graham Gordon (Nipponkai), Sue James (WCMCWG), Adrian Lee (Chester University), Peter Losa (OCEAN)

16 members present, 15 needed for quorum.

## 1) Welcome and Apologies

Chair Eric Bowers welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

## 2) Approval of Minutes (AGM – 29.02.12)

Bhupinder Virdee-Lace proposed the minutes were accurate. Heather Swainston seconded.

## 3) Matters Arising

No matters arising.

#### **4) Presentation of the Annual Report 2012**

SJ began the presentation of the Annual Report.

Annemarie Theilade interjected, pointing out that Cheshire Probation were not listed as organisational members. (The Cheshire Probation Trust were in fact, it was later found, listed as organisational members, so no amendment was needed.)

SJ continued with an explanation of how CHAWREC are currently struggling with funding, equality not being high on the Government's agenda.

CHAWREC is now working in partnership more, for example through the TLI (Transforming Local Infrastructure) Partnerships. SJ described the role of TLI and how each organisation can tap into each other's specialisms.

The Unity Centre has presented a challenge. CHAWREC has been running the centre with limited resources. However, a very positive facilitated session was held with Community Matters.

\*(TK and Corrine entered the room at 6.55pm)

We are now moving towards a separation of CHAWREC and the Unity Centre.

Funding is also a major issue for CHAWREC's Casework Service. Funding has been secured from Lloyds TSB for 2 years at £11,000 per annum, but this is only a fraction of what is required. There has been a huge increase in enquiries since the service was opened up nationwide, putting increased pressure upon the Caseworker, Sharon Willis. Because of this, we have recently started a Triage Service, with Onyeka Uzonwanne employed as a part-time Triage Worker, dealing with initial enquiries. Funding for this service will initially last for 6 months. Next year we will have to decide whether CHAWREC's casework service is sustainable. SJ went on to summarise successful outcomes of several cases over the past 12 months.

This is the last year of CHAWREC's School's Stand up 2 Racism project – Mandy Roberts will provide further information about the project in the second part of the meeting.

SJ stated that CHAWREC membership has been dwindling, however, she has acquired some funding to develop a strategy to counteract this.

SJ asked for members for any questions/comments – none were asked.

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#### **5) Presentation and approval of independently examined accounts 2010/11**

The accounts were presented for approval. EB invited any queries or comments. He stated that at present CHAWREC does not have a Treasurer. SJ informed members that there is a new Treasurer in the pipeline.

Carol Berry pointed out that Eric Bowers was listed as Chief Executive on the Accounts – it should have read Shantele Janes.

Carol Berry proposed that the accounts with that amendment were accepted by members. Bhupinder Virdee-Lace seconded.

## **6) Elections**

Two people were nominated – Elizabeth Bott and Abdush Shaheen.

There are 3 full vacancies to fill on the Committee, plus 3 co-options.

A full house voted for Elizabeth Bott and Abdush Shaheen.

Elizabeth Bott mentioned this was her 20<sup>th</sup> year serving on the Committee. Eric Bowers thanked her on behalf of all members.

## **7) A.O.B**

No issues were raised.

**Business meeting closed @ 7.10pm.**