

CHAWREC MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Unity Centre, 17 Cuppin Street, Chester

Tuesday 13 December 2016

Present:

Individual Members:

Hammideh Brice, TK Al Jorani, Bhupinder Virdee-Lace, Sophie Minshull, Shamla Naidu, Deepak Chakravarty, David Jamieson, Martin Meredith, Murial Benyon, Heather Lannin, Kate Bond

Organisational Members:

Sue James (WCMCWG), Eric Bowers (Chester Bahai's), Janos Kadar (representing Hungarian Society), Elizabeth Bott (CAMCC), Adrian Lee (University of Chester)

Staff

Shantele Janes, Elizabeth Lambrakis, Anita Dean, Valerie Donnelly (Minutes)

Apologies

C Batchelor (Social Services), Ram Darigala, Yumi Andrews, Marina Smith, Mark Aratoon, Lesley Riley, Tony Liow, Sue May Liow, Heather Swainston (CDEC)

16 members present, 15 needed for quorum

1) Welcome and Apologies

Chair Eric Bowers welcomed all present and thanked Pippa for providing the food. He mentioned that we are still in times of austerity and that a lack of funds necessitated a more pared-down AGM than in previous years.

2) Approval of Minutes

Hammideh Brice proposed the Minutes were accurate. Shantele Janes seconded. SJ mentioned that Martin Meredith's name had been omitted from the 2015 minutes list, but had been referred to throughout.

3) Matters Arising

No matters arising

4) Presentation of Annual Review 2015/16

Shantele Janes asked whether anyone had any questions regarding this year's Annual Report and whether there was anything else members would like to see reflected within the report. She explained that she did not intend to repeat the contents of the report at this point, but would be doing a presentation of CHAWREC's work, aims and future, after the business part of the meeting.

5) Presentation and approval of independently examined accounts 2015/16

The accounts were presented for approval by Martin Meredith. MM asked members to turn to page 9 of the Accounts and went on to explain the Statement of Financial Activities. Net total funds for 2016 were 24K. He continued to describe the reasons for the changes in income during 2016,

including changes in Grant Income, a 200% increase in Room Hire income, a 50% reduction in wages due to staff cuts resulting in a surplus of 24K (vs a loss of 40K in 2015).

He explained that CWaC had allowed us to write off past rent and rates, but this would continue to be an issue for the future.

He concluded that CHAWREC's financial struggle continues and that we may have to go "cap in hand" to CWaC again about the rent and rates.

Martin Meredith asked for questions. David Jamieson asked about the nature of CHAWREC's Trade Assets. MM explained these were mainly room hire at The Unity Centre.

Martin Meredith proposed acceptance of the Accounts. Eric Bowers seconded. EB then asked all members present whether they were happy to accept the accounts. All confirmed they were.

Martin Meredith proposed Hargreaves and Wood should continue to be our accountants. Eric Bowers approved.

5) Elections

Eric Bowers listed the names of the 3 nominees – John Morrow, Elizabeth Bott and TK Al-Jorani.

Eric said that we were all very happy to see TK back again as a Trustee. A full house voted for those nominated.

6) AOB – No issued were raised.

Shantele concluded the AGM with a presentation of CHAWREC's aims, work, the challenges of the current economic/political climate and the future of CHAWREC.