

Draft Minutes of WCA Annual General Meeting 10 November 2021

Via Zoom at 2pm

1. Attended: **Trustees:** David Hall (Chair), Jenny Burrett, and Jackie Chapman **also Secretary**

In addition to the trustees/secretary, there were **13** member organisations present as follows:- Grace Oyerinde *Accoutre Learning Centre*; Juliet Boyd *Abundance*; Joe Dillon *Carlton Theatre Group*; Helen Virolan *Girls Into Coding*; Martin Lake *South Wimbledon Community Association*; Rachael Edwards *Sustainable Merton*; Tristan Wood *William Morris Meeting Rooms*; Mark Williams *Wimbledon Guild*; Councillor Edith Macauley *Merton Mayor's Office*; Naomi Martin *Commonside Trust*; Jil Hall, *South Park Gardens*; May Chee *Worple Art Group* and Shernette May *Sherwood Park Hall*

No other members had registered their agreement to vote by proxy in line with the Chair.

The Chair declared the meeting quorate.

Others in attendance:-, Susanne Ollig, Genevieve Farrell, Mark Allison (Leader of the Council), Karl Schneider, Beau Fadahunsi (Merton Connected)

Apologies: Kathie Arundell (volunteer), Tracey Sherman *Wimbledon Choral Society*, Stephen Hammond MP, Denise Heales and John Colbert *William Morris Rooms* and Bryony Farrant-Davis *Attic Theatre*.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 26 November 2020

One correction made – Carlton Theatre Group's name had been recorded incorrectly.

The minutes were approved at the meeting

3. Chair's annual report for 2020/21

The Chair presented his report of achievements over the last year and plans for the coming year.

Key achievements since 2020 AGM

Some of our key Google statistics were shared, demonstrating a real increase in user engagement, especially in connection with those pages linked to our venue members. We had expected a drop during the pandemic due to our venues being closed, but were able to switch to promoting online activity, and signposting people to community resources. Highlights as follows:-

- An online Covid-19 Hub which contained information and activities for families, older people, businesses, employers, employees, and more.
- Regularly updated news items, events pages, and social media to connect people to community groups
- A series of Covid-19 related webinars with external SMEs and presenters for members, including post webinar support
- A phone line which dealt with significantly more enquiries concerning everything from food banks, donations, volunteering and vaccinations and signposting people. This was particularly used by people wanting to connect with Dons Local Action Group before they were able to set up their own web presence.

- 75 Stories project about our past, present and future. WCA was set up in 1946 by Wimbledon Borough Council and was originally homeless until a community centre was built in 1955. The Borough of Merton was created in 1965 following changes to local authority boundaries. In 2012, the centre was closed and development of Wimblecomm commenced in 2016. There are articles and videos on the site to tell our story, and that of people and organisations connected with us. There are more in the pipeline.
- New membership system (including fee paying categories)
- New community groups category
- New job and volunteer recruitment sections

Plans for the coming year and beyond

- Continue with 75 stories into 2022 with more videos and online articles and other pieces, with the possibility of maybe an exhibition later in year.
- Continue to publish events (virtual and physical) on the site
- Increase our membership for venue and now community groups
- Develop income sources to support the above and reduce dependence on cash reserves
- Recruit new trustees and volunteers as part of succession plan
- Review constitution – the existing constitution is over 20 years old, and should be reviewed in line with more modern structures for charities.
- Continue to connect people places and passions! The introduction of community groups into our membership alongside the existing venue membership will no doubt help deliver our vision further.

Thanks and acknowledgements

- To Susanne and Genevieve for their continued commitment and hard work to improve the site and develop our on-line presence
- To my fellow trustees for their support

4. The Financial Report and Statements to March 2021

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value

The charity's funds have been invested with CCLA to raise dividend income to fund its activities, and drew attention to the increase in investment valuation, which has increased further since the year-end.

The income statement shows that expenditure exceeds income by £20k, which is more than offset by the growth in the investment portfolio. Cash reserves have been used to fund this difference, rather than access the invested money. Costs have been reduced from last year, largely due to the direct employment of a member of staff previously employed via an employment agency.

Overall, the financial position of the charity is strong.

The Financial Statements have been audited by Independent Examiner, Warner Wilde, and were recommended for approval by the Trustees at a meeting on 19 October 2021.

Financial Plan moving forward

- Maintain current CCLA investments for present
- Continue with two part time support staff and web developer
- Develop income sources from adverts, membership and events over next 4 years
- Build cash reserves back up over similar time
- Further invest in services where possible from increased income

Tristan Wood of William Morris Rooms asked about the ethical credentials of CCLA. David explained that their approach to managing their clients' investment portfolio is entirely focused on ethics, and offered to forward their details to Tristan.

These were agreed at the meeting.

5. Appointment of independent examiner for 2021/22

Agreed at the meeting

6. Resignations and appointments of officers

No change

7. Any other business

Mark Allison recognised the hard work that everyone has put in, especially coming together as a community during this last eighteen months. He said that the strength of community in the borough continues to be remarkable, and hopes that we can focus on addressing the inequalities that are creeping back into our community.

We concluded by sharing one of the 75 Stories – a video made by Naomi Martin's from Commonsense Trust.

The formal part of the AGM was followed by a workshop presented by Superhighways focusing on free or low-cost software packages to enable the digital display of the impact made by charities. Some of the software covered was WordItOut, Padlet and Canva.

The Chair thanked all attendees for coming to the AGM.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm