



Community Work Ireland working collectively to support and promote community work as a means of addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality and advancing human rights

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Annual General Meeting

October 3rd 2017

Minutes

Present

Anastasia Crickley, Ronnie Fay, Seanie Lambe, Siobhán McLaughlin, Ruth O'Dea, Marianne O'Shea, Oonagh McArdle, Valerie McFarlane, Felicia Loughrey, Margaret O Riada, Kathy O'Donoghue, Áine Deely, John Kelly, Anne Daly, Ann Long, Catherine Lane, Colleen Brand, Dave O Hara, Emily Murtagh, Lorraine O'Reilly, Mairead McCann, Steven Furlong, Shane Brothwood, Niall Mahon, Pearl Maher Mary Keane, Amanda Ellis, Rebecca Lowbridge, Chris O'Ralaigh, Claire Smollen, Rachel Doyle and Ann Irwin.

Directors Apologies

Jamie Gorman, Obert Makaza

Chair

CWI Chairperson Anastasia Crickley chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last CWI AGM held on December 12th, 2016 were read. The minutes were proposed by Seanie Lambe and seconded by Siobhan Mc Loughlin and agreed by the AGM.

Annual Report

Rachel Doyle presented the annual report for 2016. The following highlights were particularly noted;

- The publication of the All Ireland Standards for Community work and the dissemination workshops undertaken throughout the country following publication.
- Work on the Framework Policy on Local and Community Development and the key note address given by CWI at the National Forum on Local and Community Development.

- The two-day summer school held in Maynooth University and organised by CWI members on a voluntary basis. Ronnie Fay, Sinead Smyth and Ciara Bradley were acknowledged for their work on the summer school.

The Annual Report was approved and accepted by the AGM and the work over the previous year was acknowledged particularly in light of the scarce resources currently available to the organisation.

Financial Report

The annual audited accounts were available for scrutiny by CWI members at the AGM and all present were provided with a summary income and expenditure sheet.

Áine Deely presented the financial report noting that the income for the year for the national office from grants was €99,936 with expenditure amounting to 97,414. Áine highlighted that the auditor has given the financial processes and procedures in the organisation their approval and noted that CWI staff's presentation of accounts to the Central Group throughout 2016 was of a high standard and very clear for all Central Group members.

The financial report was proposed by Valerie McFarlane, seconded by Margaret O Riada and approved by the AGM.

Appointment of Auditors

The CWI Central Group recommended the re-appointment of Kelly Murray Auditors (now called CANDOR due to an amalgamation of 2 companies) for audit services. The re-appointment of CANDOR was proposed by Ann Long, seconded by Marianne O' Shea and agreed by the AGM.

Approval of new CWI Constitution

In line with new Companies Act 2014, CWI is obliged to adopt one of the new company structures and change its legal documents from a Memorandum and Articles of Association to a Constitution. In doing so the organisation took the opportunity to review the main purpose and objects of the Company. A small number of changes were made by the CWI Central Group at the November meeting and these were presented to the AGM having been reviewed by a solicitor with expertise in the area. It was noted that should additional changes be required by the Charities Regulator an EGM could be called to approve any new amendments.

The chair proposed a Special Resolution that CWI would adopt CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee) status and make the amendments as proposed to the new Constitution. This was seconded by Ronnie Fay and agreed by the AGM.

Seanie Lambe stated that the new regulations are seriously objectionable in that they are pushing community sector organisations into the realm of charities and that this needs to be challenged.

Central Group

Mary O'Donoghue, Joe Donoghue, and Mick Mooney stepped-down from the Central Group. The Chairperson thanked them for their commitment and contribution to CWI and looked forward to working with them as CWI members into the future. Seanie Lambe and Catherine Lane were elected as new Central Group members.

Central Group 2016 – 2017

Anastasia Crickley	Oonagh McArdle
Obert Makaza	Áine Deely
Valerie McFarlane	Ronnie Fay
Seanie Lambe	Catherine Lane
Patricia Brennan	Siobhan Mc Loughlin

The appointment of the new CWI Central Group was agreed by the AGM.

SICAP Tendering Process

The issue of tendering for the programme was raised in light of concerns that private companies may tender for SICAP 11.

It was decided that CWI would write to the Department reiterating again, the well documented and frequently presented CWI concerns regarding privatisation and the tendering process in SICAP and highlighting the concerns of members raised at the AGM in this regard.

In particular, it was agreed that the letter would highlight;

- Concerns regarding the immediate situation
- That the values of sharing, mutual support and solidarity amongst and between organisations locally has been undermined by fear, rumours about who is submitting tenders, instability and competition
- Difficulties in accessing information from the Department and Pobal throughout the tender process
- The need to review again, the entire process of tendering and explore the potential of opt out clauses in relation to community development.

The following additional suggestions were made regarding CWIs on going work in relation to tendering;

- A 2 pager to be produced setting out key messages in the 2 CWI SICAP publications
- on line letter templates to be produced and targeted at TDs and local councillors regarding concerns about the privatisation of community development and noting that that tendering for social inclusion, equality and community work is a contradiction in terms and that the tendering process is at odds with the Public-Sector Duty
- CWI should encourage Mayo members to meet with Michael Ring to highlight concerns.

The Chairperson thanked the staff, Central Group, Community Sector Subgroup and members for their support and engagement throughout 2016.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.