



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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CWI Annual General Meeting

October 4th 2018

Minutes

Present: Anastasia Crickley, Ronnie Fay, Seanie Lambe, Ruth O'Dea, Valerie McFarlane, Felicia Loughrey, Niamh Wogan, Liam McGlynn, Connie MacManus, Trish Brennan, Nuala Kelly, Amy Collins, Ciara Bradley, Catherine Lynch, Catherine Lane, Rachel Doyle and Ann Irwin.

Apologies

Jamie Gorman, Obert Makaza, Marianne O'Shea, Oonagh McArdle, Margaret O Riada, Áine Deely, Anne Daly

Chair

CWI Chairperson, Anastasia Crickley, chaired the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves. See below for a summary of issues raised.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last CWI AGM were read. The minutes were proposed by Seanie Lambe, seconded by Ruth O'Dea and agreed by the members.

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.

In the unavoidable absence of the CWI Treasurer, Ann Irwin presented the report of the CWI Auditor, Candor, noting that the income for the year for the national office from grants was €130,267.00 with expenditure amounting to €106,480.00. Ann highlighted the higher than usual turn-over as a result of the funding for the World Community Development Conference and noted that there this is likely to be the case for the following year as well. Ann highlighted that the auditor has given the financial processes and procedures in the organisation their approval.

The financial report was proposed by Ronnie Fay, seconded by Catherine Lane and approved by the AGM.

Appointment of Auditors

The CWI Central Group recommended the re-appointment of Candor Auditors for audit services. The re-appointment of Candor was proposed by Seanie Lambe, seconded by Nuala Kelly and approved by the AGM.

Annual Report

Ann and Rachel presented the annual report for 2017 to the current period.

Rachel explained that the Annual Report covers the period from the beginning of 2017 to the current period in order to make it more relevant.

The Annual Report can be found [here](#). The following highlights were particularly noted;

- The ongoing work of the AIEB, including completing two endorsement processes in the period.
- The ongoing training using *All Ireland Standards for Community Work*
- The publication of the second report on commissioning, published *Community Work under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2014-2017*, and the associated work on seeking to influence SICAP II.
- The ongoing work on the development of the Implementation Plan for the National Framework on Local and National Development.
- Representation on a range of structures and policy work, including submission.
- The holding of the very successful World Community Development Conference 2018.

The importance of the national work undertaken by CWI was noted as supporting submissions made by other organisations was acknowledged.

The contribution of all involved to the organisation of the WCDC2018 was acknowledged. It was acknowledged that the conference highlighted the global nature of the challenges to community work and the need to develop the capacity to articulate and address the challenges, including the need to keep local, national and international solidarity.

Key priorities identified for the coming year included;

- Building North South links and establishing a North-South Sub Group
- Continued work in relation to the process of competitive tendering in SICAP and other programmes
- Building networks/networking opportunities and feedback mechanisms in relation to SICAP

Membership

Staff outlined how, in renewing the CWI membership database to endure compliance with GDPR, we have lost quite a number of members. Staff suggested that priority needed to be given to building up the membership base again and proposed the waiver of the membership for individuals, at least for a time. The membership fee would be presented as a voluntary contribution. This was agreed by the AGM.

Central Group

Jamie Gorman stepped-down from the Central Group and was sincerely thanked for his contribution to CWI. The Chairperson thanked the members of the Central Group for their significant contribution and welcomed the new members.

The Chairperson stated that it was her intention to undertake a handover period to a new Chairperson. Anastasia was thanked for her contribution to CWI and in particular her role during a period when the organisation had neither staff nor funding, was acknowledged. The staff noted that they look forward to continuing to work with her into the future.

Central Group 2018/2019

Anastasia Crickley	Oonagh McArdle
Obert Makaza	Áine Deely
Valerie McFarlane	Ronnie Fay
Seanie Lambe	Catherine Lane
Patricia Brennan	Siobhan McLoughlin
Liam McGlynn	Niamh Wogan ¹

The appointment of the new CWI Central Group was proposed by Nuala Kelly, seconded by Felicia Loughrey and agreed by the AGM.

Reflection

Anastasia provided a reflection on the work and development of CWI over the last 37 years highlighting the importance of the work in;

- Building global solidarity
- Influencing the European Structural Funds
- The inclusion of the community and voluntary sectors in social partnership
- WCDC 2018 which illustrates the challenges and capacity of community work and of CWI in maintaining global links and solidarity with those using a community work approach.

Anastasia also noted the challenges for the organisation in a new and changing context including: the need to examine and review our current structure and focus while ensuring that a partnership approach and flat structure continues to prevail; the need to continue to embrace diversity and to address the ongoing rise of the neo liberal agenda and it's impacts on society.

It was proposed that a reflection event would be useful to contribute to identifying the future direction of Community Work Ireland. This was agreed.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

¹ Niamh is to consider the nomination and confirm as soon as possible

Summary of Issues Raised at the Introduction

Participants also gave a brief overview of issues in relation to their areas of work. Some points highlighted in relation to the work of members included;

- The lack of education and training of a significant number of those employed as community workers under SICAP including a lack of awareness and knowledge of the Standards.
- A new Traveller Health Action Plan is currently being developed by the HSE under the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy. The Fundamental Rights Agency and IPSOS are currently undertaking a survey on the implementation of the NTRIS strategies throughout Europe.
- There is a concern that Roma accommodation needs are being ignored in Traveller accommodation policy and planning.
- Significant demands are being placed on national organisations including Pavee Point to provide support to Local Authorities and other agencies in relation to a range of areas. This work is not being resourced and should be a consideration in the Framework Policy for Local and Community Development Implementation Plan.
- The National Women's Council are holding a post budget analysis on Oct. 17th and are currently undertaking a baseline study for the proposed development of a Women's Health Action Plan. Their project Women for Change is currently being rolled out involving the provision of training for women in local decision-making structures.
- Women's Aid are continuing the Too into You campaign and this year's theme of the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women is Femicide.
- The north Inner City Task Force is continuing to meet in response to the crisis in that area. As a result of a strong campaign, Dublin City Council voted in September to retain ownership of the Sean Mc Dermott St. laundry - the last remaining former Magdalene Laundry in state ownership.
- The housing crisis continues to have a detrimental impact on the communities and individuals CWI members are working with. In Bray, for example, 42 social houses were started, the builder went bust and there is no emergency accommodation. The FRC is linking with landlords but many will not consider HAP recipients and Travellers are completely out of the picture. From an education perspective, the FRC are supporting people into further education through the PATH programme.
- The campaign continues in relation to the Inchicore Regeneration Scheme which should see the construction of 472 housing units, with 330 cost-rental and the remainder social housing. The cost-rental scheme. Under the cost rental scheme, housing is built ensure that rents are based on the cost of providing, financing, building, and maintaining the development, rather than to maximise profit. Rent covers the construction costs of building and maintaining the properties, which will be aimed at households on low to moderate incomes. Under the cost rental scheme, housing is built ensure that rents are based on the cost of providing, financing, building, and maintaining the development, rather than to maximise profit. Rent covers the construction costs of building and maintaining the properties, which will be aimed at households on low to moderate incomes.
- Philip Aston UN Rapporteur on Poverty will speak at a UCD seminar on November 3rd on Human Rights, Poverty and Social Justice.
- It is expected that the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees will be signed in the coming months. Australia and the US have pulled out of the migration compact although the Irish Government has been quite positive and there is a general sense that that Compact could have been worse. The Department of Justice and Equality need to remain strong in this regard.