

# **WALSALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2022**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

**Programme for the Annual General Meeting**  
**of the Walsall Community Association**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

1. **Registration**
2. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
3. **Apologies**
4. **Minutes of the last AGM**
  
5. **Elected Officers Report:**
  - a) Chairman's Report
  - b) Secretary's Report
  - c) Acceptance of Elected Officers Reports
  
6. **Presentation of Accounts**
  
7. **Election of Officers**
  - a) A Vote of Thanks to outgoing Officers
  - b) Election of Chairman
  - c) Election of Vice Chair
  - d) Election of Secretary
  - e) Election of Treasurer
  
8. **Election of Additional Members to the Management Committee**

(N.B. nominations must be made, accepted and seconded by members eligible to vote)
  
9. **Chairman's Closing Remarks**

## **Section 1**

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

Minutes of the Walsall Community Association (WCA) Annual General Meeting held on  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Meeting started at 7:00pm

In Attendance

Management Members

Chairman	Mr H Walker
V Chair	Ms Y Vassell
Secretary	Mr B Ellis
	Mr N Reid
	Mr M Idowu
	Mr D Beckford-Dawes

Staff	D Mitchell
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WCA Members

E Chambers  
E Harris  
J McRae  
E Morris  
J Morris  
L Randall  
L Rowe  
S Walker

APOLOGIES

L Haye  
E Beaumont

OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting by thanking members, visitors and friends for attending. The Chair told the meeting that last 2020 AGM was held 6 months earlier than usual, given that the organisation has now become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The Chair told the meeting that 2020 was a year like no other. The Covid-19 pandemic had taken a terrible toll on the organisation in terms of income. Hiring of the premises, pre-booked social events and scheduled activities were all cancelled, with refunds made.

Minutes of the Last AGM (circulated)

Accepted: D Beckford-Dawes & M Idowu

Matters Arising:

No matters arising.

Elected Officers Report

Chair's Report (circulated)

The Chairman's report covered the upkeep of the building; work carried out included more roof repairs taking place around the centre, in particular to the porta-cabin roof. He stated that while no Chairman was happy to see a drop in services and activities, in the situation that we found ourselves in given the significant impact of the pandemic, the Chair believed that the organisations overall performance was very creditable. The Chair thanked management members who had made it possible for him to carry out his duties throughout the year and a special thanks to staff and volunteers of the centre for their hard work. Notable names were mentioned for their continued support and advice.

Secretary's Report (circulated)

The report was not all doom and gloom despite the slow uptake in events and bookings for the centre. Emmanuel School was the main source of unremitting income, which allows the financial health of the organisation to be stable.

On a lighter note, the organisation received a £10,000 grant funding from the National Lottery award for upgrading the kitchen equipment and also to replace old and tired chairs for the Lunch Club. The report also lamented upon the failure to recruit younger people on to the Management Committee. The Secretary in his report thanked members and volunteers for their commitment and hard work throughout the last 6 months.

One of the attendees at the meeting suggested that dropping leaflets and putting up notices outside of what the organisation's "needs and wants" might be a way forward of getting people to be on board

Accepted: - Y Vassell & M Idowu.

## Treasurer's Report (produced by Accountant Paul Wilcox - circulated)

### Balance Sheet on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Current Assets	£61,527.00
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#### Current Liabilities

Creditors	£5,938.00
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Net current assets	£55,589.00
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Total assets less current liabilities	£55,589.00
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Capital Reserves	£55,589.00
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Unrestricted Funds	£55,589.00
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#### Fixed Assets

The Association holds the freehold of the charitable premises

36 Wolverhampton Road

Walsall

WS2 8PR

#### Election of Officers

The outgoing chair thanked committee members and volunteers for their commitment and hard work over the period.

#### Chairperson

Yvonne Vassell: nominated by B Ellis seconded by N Reid

Yvonne Vassell elected unanimously as Chairman.

#### Vice Chair

Hartley Walker: nominated by B Ellis seconded by Y Vassell

Hartley Walker elected unanimously as Vice Chair

#### Secretary

Basil Ellis: nominated by D Beckford-Dawes seconded by Y Vassell

Basil Ellis elected unanimously as Secretary.

#### Treasurer

Leslie Haye: nominated by B Ellis seconded by M Idowu

Leslie Haye elected unanimously as Treasurer.

### Election of 5 Management Committee members

All 5 members to the Management Committee have been unanimously elected on to the committee.

Norman Reid	nominated by B Ellis seconded by Y Vassell
Evadne Harris	nominated by N Reid seconded by H Walker
Michael Idowu	nominated by H Walker seconded by B Ellis
Danee Beckford-Dawes	nominated by N Reid seconded by L Randall
Jackie McRae	nominated by Y Vassell seconded by H Walker

Election of any other members will take place at the next management meeting.

### Closing Remarks

The elected new chairman thanked members for electing her and promised to be steadfast in her duties. She also asked the meeting for their full support to the organisation and urged them that when they go outside that they should encourage others to become part of the association.

Meeting closed at 9:05pm.

## **Section 2**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**



## Chair's Report 2021/22

I am happy to report on another twelve months that seems to have flown by; the Association has had a very quiet year since emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The organisation has monthly meetings to co-ordinate and execute plans of action, whilst the Bar sub-committee meets on a more regular basis to plan events and make preparations for room bookings.

The Luncheon Club continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for the seniors and the community, with hot Caribbean cuisine served up in the kitchen for the seniors and also for the general public.

### Maintenance

A considerable amount of money has been spent repairing the roof on the main part of the building along the skyline to the science lab. Emergency light fittings have been changed and made safe and taps in the children's toilets have been repaired.

### General Cleaning

Members, volunteers and friends attended a "Clean-up Day" at the centre. All the weeds growing in the yard, on the side of the building and on the roof have been cleared. Rubbish and unwanted furniture were put on a pile and burnt. Cleaning of the Community Garden was carried out as well.



We are always looking to improve upon the facilities that we have; the main building at the front has been well documented as being an eyesore, hence the organisation is looking at applying for grants to refurbish and redevelop the building.

#### Future Plans

We need a 3-5year plan in operation. This is to help us identify and manage our priorities. Part of the plan would be looking at our committee. Currently, we have eight committee members, some of which have now reached a very senior age and it would be good to have some young "blood" to help drive our plans forward.

#### Financial

Despite a loss of income from reduced centre usage and cancelled events, we are able to show a cash surplus for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Although we have accumulated reasonable funds over the last twelve months our financial strategy remains the same, to have sufficient funds to maintain our significance in the community and to cover our liabilities.

#### Thanks

I am delighted to thanks our army of volunteers, particularly those helping out in the kitchen. I am in awe of the effort put in by the Management Committee and also their support and care in making my job as Chairperson easier and enjoyable. The activities of the Committee may go largely unseen by many members, but without them the organisation would quickly grind to a halt.

Yvonne Vassell

Chairman

28<sup>th</sup>

October

2022

## **Section 2**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

## Secretary's Report 2021/22

Welcome to the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Walsall Community Association, in which I am pleased to report on the organisation's contribution of services and benefit to the community.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused severe disruptions to our livelihoods, service delivery and way of life. However, it has also fostered a strong spirit of care and cohesion where individuals, households and the community have stepped forward to organise their own ground-up initiatives to assist those in need.

Sporting Spirit CIC ran a range of activities during the school holidays for children aged between 5-11 years old, including arts & crafts as well as multi-sports activities. These activities went on for two weeks, with nearly 40 children attending. The activities received warm positive feedback and future events are planned for the Easter and Summer holidays next year.

African Caribbean Union (ACU), whose aim is to network and engage with their communities, have been actively involved at the centre on Sundays engaging in table tennis, dominoes, board games and other activities. All ages are welcome.

Healthwatch Walsall ran a Diabetes Awareness Event in April, with information stalls and presentations taking place. It was well attended and we are looking to run similar events in the future.

### Queen's Jubilee Event

Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee has been the flagship event of the year so far. With a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Awards, the Association staged a Jubilee Celebration and Community Lunch on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The celebration kicked off at 1:00pm with the sound of Steel Drum music playing the national anthem and music of the Caribbean. The Mayor of Walsall Rose Martin delivered the keynote speech and a toast to her Majesty.

The main event, which was the Community Free Lunch, saw more than 400 people enjoying the variety of Caribbean and Asian cuisine provided. Screens showed Her Majesty the Queen and her visits to the Commonwealth and other parts of the country. Face painting, bouncy castle and scrimmage football took place and was enough to keep the young ones involved. There was a "Royal Quiz" which saw the winner walk away with a bottle of Stones Ginger Wine.

Professor Martin Levermore, a deputy lieutenant of Her Majesty the Queen's Representative, spoke about inclusive society and how the West Indian community are a part of it.

It was good to see the community turnout and more than 400 people of different cultures and generations sharing their appreciation of the work that her Majesty had done over the last 70 years. Councillors Valerie Vaz & Gaz Ali were also in attendance.

Pictures from Queen's Jubilee Event held at the centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022.



*Paul Randall photography*  
Mayoress – Rose Martin



*Paul Randall photography*  
Community Lunch





Steel Band – Playing the National Anthem

### Challenges

There is no doubt that the organisation faces challenges in the months and years to come with a declining building, high energy price increases and the ageing of committee members. Ways of making the building more efficient:

- Improve the Building's Insulation where possible
- Use Energy-Efficient Lighting
- Utilize More Efficient Cooling/Heating Equipment
- Focus on Renewable Energy Sources.

The Association are always open to having new people with fresh ideas involved in any capacity, so if this is something you, or someone you know, may be interested in then please contact a committee member who would be happy to have you on board.

### National Lottery

We are very grateful to our funders at the National Lottery for their ongoing support. It shows the value and importance in what we do. Our kitchen is fully updated with the purchase of a brand new industrial 9 Burner Cooker, Refrigerator and Microwave oven. The old and tired high back chairs in the dining room have been replaced with NHS recommended chairs, ideal for providing support and comfort to those who need specialist seating. The dining room floor has also had its old, laminated flooring replaced.

It is enormously important to continue to stress our sincere thanks to all those committee members who give up their time to carry out their roles within the Association. These jobs are all voluntary in nature and command a significant amount of work, all of which is for the benefit of the community.

The committee is extremely grateful to our chairperson, Ms Yvonne Vassell (her first year in the post), who works tirelessly to provide direction and maintain our relevance and effectiveness. A tribute also to our long list of volunteers and friends who continue to give their free service and support to the organisation.

On a final note, we take a moment to think of all those in our community who have sadly passed away in the last 12 months. There were a number of individuals with close ties to the organisation who will be sadly missed.

Basil Ellis  
Secretary  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2022