

# **WALSALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**36 Wolverhampton Road  
Walsall  
WS2 8PR**

**01922 615179  
walsallacca@msn.com  
Facebook: WalsallACCA  
Website: accawalsall.com**



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2023**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

**Programme for the Annual General Meeting**  
**of the Walsall Community Association**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the WCA Centre  
36 Wolverhampton Road, Walsall  
Meeting started at 7:30pm

**In Attendance**

**Management Members**

Chairman	Ms Yvonne Vassell
Vice Chair	Mr Hartley Walker
Secretary	Mr Basil Ellis
	Mr Leslie Haye
	Mr Norman Reid
	Mr Michael Idowu

<b>Staff</b>	D Mitchell
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**WCA Members**

D Campbell  
S Hardy  
E Harris  
J Morris  
S Walker

**Non Members**

D Johnson  
T O'Loughlin

**Apologies**

No Apologies

**Opening Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking members, visitors and friends for attending.

**Minutes of the Last AGM (circulated)**

**Accepted:** N Reid and M Idowu

**Matters Arising:**

No matters arising.

## **Elected Officers Report**

### **Chair's Report (circulated)**

The Chairman's report covered the general maintenance of the building, and events that took place over the last 12 month period. Work carried out included repairs to the roof in the main part of the building along the skyline and in the school in the science lab, replacing of emergency light fittings and repairing of taps in the children's toilets. The Chair mentioned that the Luncheon Club continued to run every week, providing a warm and welcoming space for the seniors and the community to meet, with hot Caribbean cuisine served up in the kitchen for the seniors and also for the general public. The Chair thanked management members who have made it possible for her to carry out her duties throughout the year, with special thanks to staff and volunteers of the centre for their hard work. Notable names were mentioned for their continued support and advice. The report concluded that whilst it had been a slow year, at the same time it was a quite productive year given the large-scale maintenance program of the property.

### **Secretary's Report (circulated)**

The report highlighted the activities of the Association for the period of 12 months. It mentioned the Queen's Jubilee celebration attended by more than 400 people, Healthwatch Walsall using the centre to run a Diabetes Awareness Event, Children's Activities run by Sporting Spirit, and the African Caribbean Union (ACU) using the centre on Sundays for social activities. The report concluded by acknowledging Emmanuel School's use of the building, which provides an unremitting source of income, which helps to keep the financial health of the organisation stable. It also thanked committee members that have helped throughout the 12 months to maintain the associations existence and gave thanks to the volunteers and friends who always turn up when called upon for help.

Accepted: - N Reid & M Idowu.

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

Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Current Assets	£65,456.00
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Current Liabilities	
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Creditors	£1,465.00
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Net current assets	£63,991.00
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Total assets less current liabilities	£63,991.00
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Capital Reserves	£63,991.00
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Unrestricted Funds	£63,991.00
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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 last year.

#### **Chairman**

Yvonne Vassell: nominated by B Ellis, seconded by L Haye

Yvonne Vassell elected unanimously as Chairman.

#### **Vice Chair**

Hartley Walker: nominated by Y Vassell, seconded by B Ellis

Hartley Walker elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

#### **Secretary**

Basil Ellis: nominated by H Walker, seconded by Y Vassell

Basil Ellis elected unanimously as Secretary.

#### **Treasurer**

Leslie Haye: nominated by B Ellis, seconded by H Walker

Leslie Haye elected unanimously as Treasurer.

### **Election of Management Committee members**

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

Evadne Harris	nominated by L Haye, seconded by Y Vassell
Norman Reid	nominated by Y Vassell, seconded by L Haye
M Idowu	nominated by B Ellis, seconded by N Reid
Peace (Mkuu Amani)	nominated by B Ellis, seconded by Y Vassell

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

### **Closing Remarks**

The elected chair, Yvonne Vassell, thanked members for electing her and was hopeful that young people would join the organisation and help it to move forward in a new, innovative direction.

Meeting closed 9:30pm.

## **Section 2**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**



## Chair's Report 2023

As the Chair of Walsall Community Association, it is my pleasure to present to you my report for the year 2023.

As has been the case in recent years, it has been a quite challenging year for the centre, but also a productive year full of well attended activities and events.

### Centre Activities

A number of events & activities have taken place at the centre over the last year.

- In February & March we ran Warm Hub Sessions for members and the community.
- In April we ran a Motown Night.
- In May we ran a Community Art Project.
- In June we ran a Windrush Day event, which was attended and enjoyed by over 500 people.
- In August, alongside Sporting Spirit, we ran HAF Children's Activities.



Kitchen Staff preparing food at the Windrush Day Community Event



Steel Pan Music providing entertainment at the Windrush Day Community Event

The Luncheon Club continues to provide a warm and welcoming space for our senior members and for the community, with hot Caribbean cuisine served up in the kitchen every week. Exercise and social activities take place each week, and cost of living and health sessions have been run throughout the year.

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

### **Maintenance**

As has been the case for the last few years, a considerable amount of money has been spent repairing the roofs around the centre, including on the main part of the building, the porta-cabin and the kitchen. Emergency lighting has been changed and all the electric around the centre has been checked, to make the centre safe for everyone to use.

### **General Cleaning**

Members, volunteers and friends have attended a number of "Clean-up Days" at the centre over the last year. All the weeds growing in the yard, on the side of the building and on the roofs have been cleared. Rubbish and unwanted furniture were put into a skip and anything left over was put on a pile and burnt. Cleaning and general maintenance of the Community Garden was carried out as well.

### **Future Plans**

We are always looking to improve upon the facilities that we have; the main building at the front of the centre has been derelict and an eyesore for some time now and the organisation has been actively looking at funding to refurbish and redevelop the building.

The Management Committee have assembled a sub-committee, who will put together an action plan to help to identify and manage our priorities, and to identify funding opportunities and make applications.

### **Financial**

Despite large maintenance costs and an increase in our utility bills, our centre continues to be used by the community for social events and we are able to show a cash surplus for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. As has been the case for some time now, our financial strategy remains the same, to have sufficient funds to maintain our significance in the community and to cover our liabilities.

### **Thanks**

I would like to give thanks to our volunteers and staff, particularly those helping out in the kitchen. I am always in awe of the effort put in by everyone associated with Walsall Community Association, including all of the Management Committee, whose support and care make my job as Chairperson so much easier. The activities of the Committee can often go largely unseen by many, but without them the organisation would quickly grind to a halt.

As always we are looking for new members to join the organisation or our committees. We are always welcoming of new faces and new ideas, so if anyone would like to speak with us and give us your input, then please do not be afraid to do so.

Yvonne Vassell

Chairman

27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## **Section 2**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

## Secretary's Report 2023

Welcome to the 2023 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.

I would like to start by thanking the Management Committee and our long list of volunteers and friends who continue to give their free service and support to the organisation. Not forgetting also our lone staff member Darren Mitchell who has worked tirelessly in his administrative and managerial role in the organisation.

What has been gratifying to the organisation is the continued support from the local community through the usage of the premises for social events such as weddings, parties and christenings and their attendance at events put on by the organisation.

### Events & Activities

#### Warm Hub Sessions - February & March

A number of individuals attended the fortnightly warm hub sessions, providing a friendly environment at the centre, where they enjoyed refreshments, hot meals, social activities and were provided with health and cost of living information, in the company of others and most importantly whilst keeping warm.

#### Community Art Project - May

The beautiful stylized form of artistic expression, consisting of using spray paint with the words "Imagine. Believe. Achieve." as an inspirational quote for the students of the school and visitors, has been painted on the side of the main wall along the external car park. The work was completed by a very well-known artist from Birmingham, with the help of children from the local community.



One of the three walls painted during the Community Art Project





Stalls and Face Painting in the Community Garden during Windrush Day

### Windrush Day – 24<sup>th</sup> June

A day of family celebration of Caribbean Culture & Community in Britain. Guests were shown a Pictorial Visualisation supporting the roles of our people from the Caribbean. Videos were played of the Windrush Generation arriving in Britain. A guest speaker, Maxie Hayles, shared his personal experiences as a proud member of the Windrush Generation. There was a Domino tournament and Steel Pan music played throughout the day. Food of various Caribbean cuisine was provided free of cost and the community came out in their hundreds to be a part of this Special Day.



The Domino Tournament being played during Windrush Day

### **HAF Children's Activities - August**

Sporting Spirit ran a range of activities during the school holidays in August for children aged between 5-11 years old, including arts & crafts, multi-sports activities and gaming. These activities went on for two weeks, with nearly 40 children attending each week. The activities received positive feedback and future activities are planned for 2024.

### **Challenges**

In my last report I mentioned that the organisation faced challenges; an ageing building, high energy prices increases and a small workplace.

The Management Committee has assembled a group called the **Task Force**. This group will identify areas of priority, identify funders and will make application bids to funders. The group comprises of the Secretary, M Amani, M Idowu and E Harris. The group is currently working on a bid to refurbish the main building which has been dilapidated for a number of years. An application form for the amount of £900,000+ has been submitted to the Community Capital Programme, being offered by Walsall MBC.

### **Finance**

Our audit report shows that we are currently keeping our heads above water. It is nothing to be proud about, but given our situation regarding having to be self-reliant, the challenges faced post Covid-19 and a reduction in our services due to space availability, we will see this as a positive compared to other organisations who have had to close their doors.

### **Conclusion**

It remains a great privilege to be part of the organisation and to play a lead role in its affairs. However, I am becoming more and more concerned about the fact that the running of the association is mostly in the hands of a very small number of rather senior individuals and that these individuals cannot go on forever. Hopefully younger people will step up to fill the breach when this becomes necessary, otherwise the valuable service provided by the organisation and 40 plus years of history will be lost.

Basil Ellis  
Secretary  
27<sup>th</sup> October 2023