

# **WALSALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

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Walsall  
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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2024**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

**Programme for the Annual General Meeting**  
**of the Walsall Community Association**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

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 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 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
Treasurer	Mr. Leslie Haye
	Ms. Evadne Harris
	Mr. Norman Reid

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

E. Buckley  
E. Honeyghan  
S. Walker

**Non Members**

C. Ebanks-Powell  
D. Johnson  
A. Smith  
A. Stephenson (WBSC)

**APOLOGIES**

M. Idowu and M. Amani (Peace)

**Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members, visitors and friends to the meeting. The Chair told the meeting that it has been a challenging year for Walsall Community Association, but with the help from the trusted members she was able to complete the 12 months with much zeal and diligence. The organisation was showing signs of recovery, albeit slow but steady, resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic. There was a slight increase in bookings and the Luncheon Club users numbers were up as well.

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

**Accepted:** L. Haye & E Harris.

## **Matters Arising**

**Maintenance:** Given the age of the building and its surroundings, maintenance is inevitably hard work and the older the building gets the more expensive maintenance becomes. Budgeting for the building creates a big gap and deficit in our finances.

## **Elected Officers Report**

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

The Chairperson's report covered the upkeep of the building and events that took place over the last 12 months. Maintenance cost and the increase in utility bills have been crippling for the organisation. However, with a slight uptake in room bookings and social events, the organisation managed to show a cash surplus for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The report ended by acknowledging committee members, the lone staff member and volunteers for their hard work ensuring that the organisation continued to deliver a service to the community.

**Accepted:** H Walker and L Haye respectively.

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

The report covered the on-going activities, budgeting and partnership with other bodies. Sporting Spirit CIC (a Community Interest Company that offers sports) has become a regular user of the organisation. During the school holidays in August and December, Sporting Spirit ran a range of activities for children age between 5 – 11 years old.

Finance – our audit report showed that the organisation was currently keeping its head above water. Budgeting for building management has been very expensive given an ageing building that presents a challenge in its own kind. We have seen an uptake in centre activities, more social events and the Luncheon Club returning back to normal.

The Secretary's appealed for younger people to join the organisation as a move to ensure the long-term existence of organisation and its value in the community.

**Accepted:** - E Harris & N Reid respectively.

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

Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Current Assets	£67,182.00
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Current Liabilities	
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Creditors	£2,670.00
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Net current assets	£64,512.00
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Total assets less current liabilities	£64,512.00
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Capital Reserves	£64,512.00
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Unrestricted Funds	£64,512.00
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### **Fixed Assets**

The Association holds the freehold of the charitable premises

36 Wolverhampton Road

Walsall

WS2 8PR

**Accepted:** Y Vassell and H Walker respectively.

### **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 E Harris.

Yvonne Vassell elected unanimously as Chairman.

#### **Vice Chair**

Evadne Harris: nominated by H Walker, seconded by B Ellis.

Evadne Harris elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

#### **Secretary**

Basil Ellis: nominated by Y Vassell, seconded by L Haye

Basil Ellis elected unanimously as Secretary.

#### **Treasurer**

Leslie Haye: nominated by E Harris, seconded by N Reid.

Leslie Haye elected unanimously as Treasurer.

### **Election of 5 Management Committee members**

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

N Reid nominated by B Ellis, seconded by E Harris

H Walker nominated by B Ellis, seconded E Harris

M Idowu nominated by H Walker, seconded by N Reid

Mkuu Amani nominated by B Ellis, seconded by Y Vassell

### **New Member**

Camille Ebanks-Powell nominated by E Harris, seconded by N Reid.

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

### **Closing Remarks**

The chair thanked members for re-electing her for another term and is looking forward to the challenge ahead for the next 12 months.

E Harris also thanked members and the organisation on a whole for being part of the establishment and has promised to work assiduously in making sure that the presence of the organisation is felt throughout the community.

C Ebanks-Powell said that she was not aware that the organisation existed during her time living in the community. She proposed that a sign should be erected in the presence of passers by, indicating that the organisation is here.

D Johnson introduced himself to the meeting. He is looking at a new start-up venture of providing a Mental Health Service with a focus on personalised care that meets the unique needs of each client. More details were to follow.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm.

## **Section 2**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**



## Chair's Report 2024

As the Chair of Walsall Community Association, it is my pleasure to present to you my report for the year 2024.

As has been the case for a few years now, it has been a 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 December we had our Annual Luncheon Club Christmas Party.
- In December we also had our Annual New Year's Eve Party.
- In February & March we ran Warm Hub Sessions for members and the community.
- In February we ran a Valentine's Party.
- In March we ran a Domino Event and Dance.
- In May we ran a Bank Holiday BBQ.
- In July we ran our first Fish Fry Community Event.
- In August, alongside Sporting Spirit, we ran HAF Children's Activities.
- In September we ran our first Ladies DJ Night.

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. Social activities continue to 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.

In June, I was recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands for volunteering services in the community. It was an honour to be nominated for, and to receive this award. This award is an acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment of everyone who volunteers at the centre.



Celebrating Volunteers in Walsall

### **Maintenance**

As has been the case for the last few years, a considerable amount of money has been spent on maintenance around the centre, including repairs on the roof, a new boiler being installed in the kitchen and taps replaced in the school toilets. Asbestos and Legionella reports have been carried out, emergency lighting has been changed and all the electric around the centre has been regularly 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 was removed from the centre. Cleaning and general maintenance of the Community Garden was regularly 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 2024. 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 say thank you to all of the organisations who have contributed to the centre over the last 12 months, including Emmanuel School, PAL Fitness, Plasma of Hope, Sporting Spirit and Walsall College, and to everyone who has provided valuable information during our cost of living and health information sessions.

I would like to thank everyone who has attended our Luncheon Club each week, who has taken part in our activities and who have attended our events over the last year, and thank you to everyone who has used our centre for functions during the last 12 months.

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

Chair

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## **Section 2**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Registered Charity No. 1189701**

# Secretary's Report 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Secretary's Report for Walsall Community Association, in which I am pleased to report on the organisation's contribution of services and benefit to the community.

I am especially satisfied with our continued commitment of putting the needs of the community at the heart of what we do.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the dedication of our board members 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.

We will continue our commitment to maintaining our presence and services to the community.

## Funding

2023/2024 has seen a low uptake of activities and income from outside bodies. The sole funding which we received during the last year was from **PAL Fitness & Education CIC**. WCA was provided with £800 funding to help to run **Warm Hub sessions** in February and March 2024. This funding allowed meals to be offered to the community and members at a discount and went towards overheads associated with running the sessions. **Plasma of Hope** also contributed towards the warm hub sessions, paying for meals during two of the sessions and providing valuable health information during the year.

## Bookings

Use of the function rooms this year has increased, with Birthday Parties, Christenings, Baby Showers, Funerals and a Music concert all running in our function rooms. The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) have also started using the centre every Sunday for their services. There are some enquiries that were made which the organisation was unable to facilitate due to the nature of the events. Some enquiries were for 2 hours sessions, which were not cost effective, whilst some enquiries were for use of the centre during the day and others required a lot of manpower involving moving out the furniture from one room to another.

## Events & Activities

Over the last 12 months we have run a number of events, including our Christmas and New Years Eve Parties, a Valentine's Party, Domino Dance and Ladies DJ Night. The events were well attended and they all had positive feedback.

## BBQ Fundraising Event

Our annual Bank Holiday BBQ in May was a success. There was Bouncy Castle for the little ones, face painting and use of the Community Garden, and for the adults there was music and dominoes in the Social Club, along with hot food and cold drinks available for everyone.

### **Fish Fry Fundraising Event**

This was a new event introduced to the centre from a couple of our Trustees. The Fish Fry offered a traditional Jamaican cooked meal where a variety of fish dishes were available for the community to try. A popular choice was the fried snapper dishes and a preparation of Escovitch, a traditional Jamaican fish dish with spicy, lightly pickled vegetables and sauce. The event was warmly received, and the fish dishes were enjoyed by all. We will be looking to run the Fish Fry event again in the future.

### **HAF Children's Activities**

Sporting Spirit ran a range of activities during the school holidays in August for children aged between 5-11 years old, including arts & crafts and multi-sports activities. These activities went on for two weeks, with over 20 children attending each week. The activities received positive feedback, and future activities are planned for 2025.

### **Walsall College**

Staff and students from Walsall College have been helping WCA every Wednesday during the community hub sessions. They have been running activities, delivering exercise sessions and provided a pampering session for our members in December. We have continued to work with Walsall College throughout 2024 and more students will be helping us in 2025.

### **New Member**

We welcomed on board a new member to the committee, Mrs Camille Ebanks-Powell. Mrs Ebanks-Powell is an educator who brings a vast number of transferable skills and experience to the organisation. Discipline, risk management, meticulous organisation, planning timelines, budgets and resources to name just a few.

### **Challenges**

In my last report I mentioned that the organisation faces many challenges, a declining building, high utility costs and price increases, and a small workplace. Trying to get funding for redeveloping the site is a major task. Developers are interested in the site, but only to serve their own purpose. A proposal being put forward is to host a **Community Consultation** meeting on re-imagining a Walsall Community Asset. This will involve identifying Key Stakeholders. Their presence is crucial for fostering collaboration and enhancing community initiatives.

### **Finance**

Our financial report shows that we are in a good financial position. Emmanuel School is our major income contributor and as always we appreciate their continued support. Maintaining an ageing building has a substantial impact on the finances of the centre.

### **Conclusion**

It remains a great privilege to be part of the organisation and to play a lead role in its affairs. Thank you once again for your support and we look forward to 2024/25.

Basil Ellis  
Secretary  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2024