



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam**

**Friday 9th February 2018 at 7:00p.m.**

**Glyndŵr University, Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AW**

**Present:** Ann Hughes, Gareth Hughes, David James, Harri Bryn Jones (Chairman), Nia Wyn Jones (Secretary), Trefor Jones-Morris, Gareth Lloyd, Bethan Williams, Gill Stephen (Chief Officer), Chris Baglin, Gwen Smith, Marian Jones, Bob Gaffey, Yvon Jones, Gareth V. Williams,.

### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first annual meeting of Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam following the union of Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and Menter Iaith Maelor on the 1st April 2017. The Chairman extended an invitation to Trefor Jones-Morris to say a few words as the former chairman of Menter Iaith Maelor. Trefor Jones-Morris thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to talk a little about all the work undertaken by Menter Iaith Maelor and to note that the union is an opportunity to move forward to a new era as part of a larger entity.

### **2. Apologies**

Alun Evans, Menna Evans, Phil Lovell, Huw Alun Roberts, Llinos Roberts, Gareth Williams, Rhian Davies, Siwan Jones, Rebecca Roberts, Sioned Roberts, Morgan Thomas, Ffion Whitham, Huw Brightwell, Bronwen Wright, Ffion Hughes, Eirian Conlon, Martin Jones, Ruth Rees.

### **3. Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meetings of 2015-16**

It was agreed that the minutes of the annual meetings of Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint (9.11.16) and Menter Iaith Maelor (13.12.16) were correct.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

### **5. Acceptance of the Chief Officer's Report**

The Chief Officer, Gill Stephen, presented the Annual Report and noted that there was now an opportunity to build on the successes of the two mentrau e.g. the St. David's Day celebrations. During the past year and under the care of the Marketing Officer, it has been

possible to experiment with different means of communication – through the website, Facebook and Twitter. These changes have been very successful as a means to reach the community more effectively and have improved the relationship between the public and the Menter. Even though this past year has been a period of change and uncertainty, the new Menter has been able to move onwards with confidence built on a strong foundation.

### **Comments**

GW – Noted that the Menter had offered a wide range of activities and had succeeded in ensuring Welsh language provision for a great number of people during the year. It is important to note also that the Menter has been able to establish a good relationship with the Mayor and Town Council of Mold by working diplomatically with them to bring a Welsh language aspect to existing events, e.g. Mold Food Fair, Christmas Celebrations and the Festival of Light. This very valuable work is unique to the Mentrau Iaith. Thanks also to Chris Baglin for his presentation work during the various festivals.

MJ – Noted that the Menter work closely with the Library Service of Wrexham County Borough Council (Wrexham CBC). There was praise for the professional work of the excellent Menter team and for their dedication in staging three celebratory events in the same day for St. David's Day. Also to be praised was their ambassadorial work whilst in London receiving the Lottery Award and for taking the opportunity to visit the London Welsh School.

GS – Expressed thanks for the kind words. Agreed that the work of bringing a Welsh language aspect to events by making Welsh more obvious, more audible and more visual is vitally important as it is possible for Welsh and English to exist in parallel worlds where non-Welsh speakers are unaware that Welsh is used as a live language.

BW – Noted that Welsh swimming lessons are still not available in every Flintshire County Council swimming pool. The shortage of places in local Welsh primary schools across both counties is a matter to be resolved and even though Wrexham CBC had consulted on the location of a new Welsh school, transport will be difficult for many families. More work is needed to develop the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) of every county and by the Welsh Government's Minister for the Welsh Language, Eluned Morgan AM.

GS – Noted that Eluned Morgan AM will be visiting a Menter event and it would be ideal if a good representation were available to meet her.

The Chairman thanked Gill and the staff for their work and noted that there were valuable strengths, abilities and interests amongst the staff.

## **6. Acceptance of the Account up to 31st March 2017**

Gill noted that the Menter receives £132,000 from the Welsh Government toward running Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrexham and that additional money had to be secured through Service Level Agreements and grants in order to meet the true costs of running the Menter.

Discussion took place on the inconsistencies of Government contributions towards the mentrau iaith across Wales and it was felt that there was scope for the Government to improve its support, particularly to smaller mentrau and those on the border with England where so much work needs to be undertaken. There was a call for additional Welsh language primary schools in Buckley and Wrexham and an additional Welsh language high school in the Rhos/Ruabon area.

Thanks were expressed to Huw Alun Roberts and to David James for their work as Treasurers for Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and Menter Iaith Maelor, also thanks to Ffion Whitham for her work taking care of the budget for both of the Mentrau. It was noted that there was a surplus of £767 for Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and a deficit of £579 by Menter Iaith Maelor. The reserves funds and assets of Menter Iaith Maelor have since been combined with the reserves and assets of Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam. The accounts were received by the Board of Directors.

## **7. Election of the Board of Directors for Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrexham**

In line with the Constitution of the Menter, the directors must stand down and then be re-elected. Ann Hughes wished to stand down from the Board after a great many of years serving the Menter and as a Governor of Ysgol I.D. Hooson. Ann was thanked for her valuable contribution and for her wise and sensible advice. Although she would be missed by the Menter, it was noted that she would still be contributing the Welsh life of the area. All other directors were content to be re-elected. It was therefore resolved to re-elect the following directors: Alun Evans, Gareth Hughes, Harri Bryn Jones (Cadeirydd), Nia Wyn Jones (Ysgrifennydd), Trefor Jones-Morris, Gareth Lloyd, Phil Lovell, Huw Alun Roberts (Trysorydd), Llinos Roberts, Bethan Williams, Gareth Williams.

Gareth Hughes accepted the nomination to be the Menter's Chairman and to be elected in the next quarterly Board meeting. Despite not accepting a nomination to become a director, Gareth V. Williams proposed becoming an Associate Director, without a vote, to contribute in his field of expertise. The proposal was agreed and it was noted that a possible amendment to the constitution would be required.

David James, Marian Jones a Gareth Lloyd were nominated as directors to be elected at the next quarterly Board meeting. Elen Lloyd-Davies, Carys Jones, Gwennan Mair and Dwynwen Jones were also nominated as new directors and it was agreed that they would be invited to the next quarterly Board meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the Menter's plan to establish an Area Committee for young people in the Mold area so that they can arrange events for themselves. In order to make a grant application to the Lottery Awards for All fund, a committee must establish a constitution and a bank account. It was agreed that this was a worthwhile plan to be developed.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **The Mayor of Mold's Celebratory Event**

Bob Gaffey, the Mayor of Mold, spoke about a week of celebrating Wales and the Welsh language in Mold, beginning with a concert at Theatr Clwyd on the evening of Sunday 29th April this year. Tudur Owen will present the evening and Dafydd Iwan and other performers will be taking part. An eisteddfod competition has been set for the local schools on the theme of "What Wales Means to Me". A chiring ceremony will be part of the concert on the Sunday evening. Yvon Jones asked for assistance to arrange event over the week and Gill responded that the Menter would be happy to assist where ever possible.

## **9. Date and Suggested Venue of the next Annual General Meeting**

A date in November 2018 and the location of the Haydn Rees Room at Theatr Clwyd were proposed for the next Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their presence and for their contributions.