

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam**  
**6:00pm Tuesday 20th November 2018**  
**The Business School, Coleg Cambria, Northop**

**Present:** Gareth Hughes, Gill Stephen, Nia Wyn Jones, Elgan Davies-Jones, Gareth Lloyd, Bethan Williams, Gareth Williams, Maiwenn Berry, Gwen Smith, Anna Prysor Jones, Rhian Davies, Ffion Whitham, Jeni Harris, Yvon Jones, Bob Gaffey, Richard Roberts.

**1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman, Gareth Hughes extended a warm welcome to the meeting, noting that 2017-18 had been a special year for the Menter, Magi Ann's year, some might say! This was the year of course in which the Magi Ann apps project won the National Lottery Award in the educational category. The Chairman noted that he was extremely proud that following the ceremony, the staff had decided to spread the word by taking Magi Ann on a special visit to the Ysgol Gymraeg (Welsh medium school) in London. The success of the Magi Ann project brought with it increased publicity for the Menter in the national press, several interviews on Radio Cymru and more than one appearance on Heno on S4C. The high profile of the project also caught the attention of a number of politicians including Eluned Morgan, the Welsh Government's Minister for the Welsh Language. The visit of the Minister to a Magi Ann Party in Ysgol Bro Alun was extremely important in raising awareness of our grass roots work and to demonstrate the influence and effect the Mentrau Iaith can have locally. The Chairman expressed his earnest thanks to the staff, the Chief Officer and the Directors for their hard work and commitment over the year whilst noting that the first year since the official union of the two Menters, to form Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam had been exceptionally successful

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following: Harri Bryn Jones, Marian Jones, Trefor Lloyd-Morris, Emma Lloyd, Phil Lovell, Siôn Aled Owen, Huw Alun Roberts, Llinos Roberts, Stephen Rule, Chris Baglin, Eirian Conlon a Frances Jones

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 9th February, 2018**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016-17 were accepted as a correct record.  
Proposed by GW and seconded by YJ.

**4. Mater Arising**

The Minutes make mention of the intention to appoint Associate Directors – i.e. individuals with a range of different specialisms that would be an advantage to the Menter, but that are not directors in full. This situation arose last year with Huw Alun Roberts, who is standing down as a director but will continue to represent the Menter on the Flintshire WESP committee and with Gareth Williams who shares his educational expertise as required.

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

Gill Stephen, the Chief Officer, presented the Annual Report to the meeting highlighting the fact that we were celebrating a contented first wedding anniversary between Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint and Menter Iaith Maelor. The hard work undertaken to ensure a balanced presence in the two

counties was noted and working in the one location had facilitated effective joint working amongst the team which in turn feeds and promotes each other's work. The Chief Officer highlighted a recent review undertaken by Mentrau Iaith Cymru into the views of Mentrau Iaith staff across Wales of their conditions of work and job satisfaction ratings. Generally, the number of staff stating that they are happy and content in their work is high. These findings reflect the fact that staff working for the Mentrau do so because they believe in the work, share the aims and objectives of their Menter and feel that they succeed in making a difference. The report was accepted, with thanks.

#### **6. Acceptance of the Company Accounts to the 31st March 2018**

The Accounts were presented by the Business Officer with the assistance of the Accountant, Richard Roberts. The list of grants and income (page 13) was highlighted and shows that the core grant from the Welsh Government accounts for the majority of the income, with some additional funds from a Service Level Agreement with Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, Confa Glyndŵr, Mentrau Iaith Cymru (Welsh in Business project), income from joint-working projects with partners, and income from activities (including the sale of Magi Ann resources to other Mentrau) and an award of £5,000 from the National Lottery. The majority of expenses are made up of salary and administrative costs such as rent, office equipment and travelling. There has also been expenditure on projects which are mostly funded from the Welsh Government Core Grant or from income raised through activities.

RR highlighted the income that has resulted from the union of the two Mentrau. It was noted that £11,076 came into the accounts from Menter Iaith Maelor. Some £9,000 of this was cash (before adjustments) and £3,000 in assets such as office furniture. Because of the extensive changes in accounting rules over the past two years, this capital must be shown as income, even though it is not new money, but rather a transfer of the assets of Menter Iaith Maelor over to Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam. It was also noted that the £3,735 Awards for All grant and the £8,000 Welsh in Business grant had not been included in this year's accounts but had been banked and deferred to be spent in the following financial year. The accounts were accepted as correct.

It was noted that in the face of extensive budgetary cuts, future funding from Flintshire could be reduced. GW highlighted the possibility of attracting funding from GWE, as he was aware of other Mentrau that have received funding from this plan. GStephen would enquire of Iwan Hywel as he represents the Mentrau on the GWE Committee.

#### **7. Election of the Board of Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam**

During the year, Huw Alun Roberts has stated his intention to stand down as a director (and Treasurer of the Menter) at the end of the 2018-19 financial year, however he will remain as an Associate Director representing the Menter on Flintshire County Council's WESP Committee. The Chairman expressed thanks for the support and work of HAR – "the sums man" – over the years and noted that he had been a director since the formation of the Menter. He will be greatly missed!

The remaining directors were content to remain in their roles and all were unanimously re-elected. GStephen and GSmith would re-consider the word of the point in the Memorandum that refers to re-election of directors and their length of service.

## **8. Any Other Matter**

- i) OFFICE LOCATION – Since receiving notice of the need to vacate the Corlan building in the new year, uncertainty continues regarding the future location of the Menter’s office. Alternative locations in Buckley have been considered. In the mean-time there has been news of a new purchaser for Corlan that would wish to continue to keep the building as it is and for the current tenants to remain. However, it is understood that the intention is to make improvements to the building and to subsequently increase the rent. GStephen awaits confirmation of the scale of the increase in order to compare with the costs of moving (which are high).
- ii) ITEMS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – GL noted that he would like to see the following items discussed in detail at the next Board of Directors’ meeting: a) The future of the Youth Sub-committee and if there is potential to appoint a Youth Officer, b) the Menter’s Targets – because he is keen for the directors to make more of a contribution to the setting and undertaking of the targets. Confirmation was received that this item is already on the agenda of the next quarterly Board of Directors’ meetings and it was noted that the Menter had received confirmation by the Welsh Government in October that period of the current Grant to Promote and Facilitate the Use of Welsh had been extended for a period of two further years to March 2021. C) PQASSO – GL enquired about the work of the PQASSO Sub-committee. GSmith noted that work had continued in the office collecting the relevant documentation to upload to the digital dashboard. It was estimated that the work was some 46% complete. Once all of the documentation was on the dashboard there would be an opportunity for the PQASSO Sub-committee to scrutinise and accept.
- iii) FLINTSHIRE WELSH EDUCATION STATISTICS – GW noted that 6% of Flintshire pupils currently receive Welsh Education and that there was great concern that these numbers were falling (contrary to patterns in the majority of other areas in Wales which enjoy an increase in the numbers in Welsh Education). GStephen agreed that this had been a concern and that the Menter is working hard to promote Welsh Education across the two Counties in an attempt to meet this challenge. GStephen also noted that that we had increased significantly the number of targets that support Children and Young People that are already in Welsh Education, to the point of doubling. Future developments with the Fforwm Iaith Sirol (County Forum) were also noted. The aim is to formalise the Fforwm (to be more akin to the structure in Anglesey), so that the partners play a key role in feeding into the Five-Year Strategies and WESP Committees of the County Councils.

## **9. Suggested date and location for the next Annual General Meeting**

No specific date was identified however it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in November 2019 at a venue in the Wrexham area.