

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Monday, 4 December 2023

Notice of meeting

Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)

Tuesday, 12th December, 2023 at 3.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK and Remote Attendance

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Welcome and Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	To note the record of the meeting held on 4th October 2023	1 - 6
4.	Professional Learning Update	
5.	WASACRE Update	7 - 10
	1. WASACRE Conference June 2024 (Wrexham)	
6.	Holocaust Memorial Day - (Reminder for schools)	
7.	Make up of Appointments/recruitment Panel	
8.	Update from Estyn	
9.	Any Other Business	
10.	Date of Future Meetings	
	13 th March 2024 at 3pm	
	12 th June 2024 at 3pm	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
Vacancy (Independent Group)		

Representing the Church in Wales (1)

Rebecca Morteo

Representing the Roman Catholic Church (1)

Mr. A. Szwagrzak

Representing Free Churches (4)

Baptist Church: Revd. J. Greaves
The Salvation Army: Vacancy
Methodist Church: Vacancy
Presbyterian Church: Mrs. S. Gooding

Representing the Bahá'í Faith (1)

Mrs S. Cave

Representing the Buddhist Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Hindu Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Jewish Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Sikh Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Muslim Faith (1)

Maddie Saraireh

Representing Non Religious Philosophical Convictions

Chris Francis (Humanism)

Representing the Teachers Associations (7)

5 x Vacancies

Mrs S. Hamer

Mrs C. Rhodes

Co-opted Members (2)

Vacancy

Vacancy

R.E Advisor

Hayley Jones (EAS)

Representing Chief Officer, Children and Young People

Sharon Randall-Smith

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

- to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC) held at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 3.00 pm

PRESENT:

COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt (Chair)
County Councillor Paul Pavia
County Councillor Louise Brown
County Councillor Angela Sandles

FAITH AND BELIEF REPRESENTATIVES

Sue Cave
Jonathan Greaves
Rebecca Morteo

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Charlotte Rhodes
Suzanne Hamer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sharon Randall-Smith	Head of Achievement and Attainment
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Hayley Jones	Curriculum Partner (SACs and RVE)
Geraint Edwards	Solicitor

APOLOGIES:

Suzanne Gooding, Chris Francis, Maddie Sareirah, Ali Szwagrzak. It was noted that Neil Jenkins has resigned.

1. To note the record of the previous meeting held on the 14th June 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as an accurate record subject to the addition:

Membership and Future Recruitment: It was suggested that the appointments panel could be similar to the LA Governors appointment panel.

2. SAC Membership and Future Recruitment

The Head of Achievement and Extended Services presented a report on SAC Membership and Future Recruitment as amended to reflect the comments at the last meeting. The Chair invited comments and questions.

- Regarding the four-year term of office. It was explained that current SAC members can serve four years from the start of SAC but may resign at any point. Future members will start a four-year term on appointment. When the term ends, consideration will be given to reappointment by the organisation represented.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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- It was suggested that Local Authority representation on the appointments panel is cross party and that the current elected members on SAC (plus the vacant seats) could form the panel as the Chair and two members was insufficient. A Member questioned the need for full Council ratification of appointments noting that faith and belief representatives have been appointed by their respective organisation. The Member considered that the LA Governor appointments panel would be a better model. The Legal representative explained that it is a matter for SAC to decide upon the appointments panel model, pointing out that SAC is a part of the authority's committee structure whereas the local authority governors' appointment panel is not.
- It was suggested that five years would be a more appropriate term of office for SAC members to align with the electoral term of councillors.
- The Legal Representative clarified that SAC determines the length of the term of office and confirmed that appointments must be ratified by Full Council as per the Constitution as there is no delegated authority. The SAC appointments panel would provide a mechanism to recommend appointments to Council. The composition of the appointments panel is for SAC to determine. Principles of good governance suggest cross-party representation on the appointments panel.
- The Member asked that the membership of SAC is clarified as follows:

County Council representatives (6)

Faith and Belief Representatives

Church in Wales (1)

Roman Catholic Church (1)

Free Church Council (4)

Bahá'í (1)

Muslim (1)

Hindu (1)

Sikh (1)

Jewish Faith (1)

Buddhism (1)

Non-Religious Philosophical Conviction (1)

Teacher representatives (7)

- A Member commented that the census for the County indicated that 50% of its population is Christian and SAC should reflect that proportionality. The Member expressed concern that church schools should be represented without restriction and not based entirely on teachers' professional associations.
- The Member suggested that prospective SAC members have a Monmouthshire connection to ensure representation of the local community.
- The Legal representative confirmed that the report does not modify the membership of the faith and belief group which remains at 13 members as in the Constitution. Regarding teacher representation, it was confirmed that legislation does not specify representation to be sub-divided into various faith schools. It would be for the appointments panel to take local connection to Monmouthshire into account when considering applications.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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- It was commented that having representation from church schools is an aspect that should be considered. It was clarified that nominations come forward from professional associations and they therefore should consider the balance of community and church school representation in a fair and equitable way.
- A Member referred to the two vacancies for Local Authority representatives and queried what would happen if no nominations are received from the Independent Group. The Member also asked what timescales are expected for the recruitment and appointment process. The Chair reported that he had written to the Leader of the Independent Group who has said that she would get back to him.
- In terms of the current vacant seats on SAC for local authority representatives, it was confirmed that whilst political balance is not strictly required it would be good practice to have a composition that is broadly representative of Council. The Leader of the Council (in consultation with Chair of SAC) is responsible for filling the two vacant seats. It was added that the vacant positions don't affect recruitment to the other groups as the panel would be based on who is available and will be as broadly representative of the local authority as possible.
- It was explained that nominations to the teacher representative vacancies have been delayed due to the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) meeting being cancelled. The matter will be added to the agenda for the next JAG meeting. Other representation will proceed once the recruitment process is confirmed.
- A Member suggested that there could be five local authority representatives on the appointments panel, four being the current LA representatives. Regarding political balance, the example of planning committee was given where other parties have taken up vacant seat where the Independent Group have provided no nominations. It was noted that CC Buckler is interested in becoming a member of SAC. The legal representative identified a risk if one of the five on the appointments panel failed to attend, there would be no quorum. The Member suggested a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5.

At this point, the Chair suggested that the report should not be amended but put to the vote.

On being put to the vote in the three groups, the report was approved. A point was raised about protocol when there is a tie within a group. Further information will be sought.

3. To confirm the draft Annual Report 2022/23

The EAS RVE Partner was thanked for producing the Annual Report 2022/23.

A Member asked that the composition of SAC is amended to reflect the constitution:

County Council representatives (6)

Faith and Belief Representatives

Church in Wales (1)

Roman Catholic Church (1)

Free Church Council (4)

Bahai (1)

Muslim (1)

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Hindu (1)
Sikh (1)
Jewish Faith (1)
Buddhism (1)
Non-Religious Philosophical Conviction (1)

Teacher representatives (7)

With the amendment, the report was confirmed.

4. EAS RVE Partner Update

The EAS RVE Partner updated SAC as follows:

- Three Monmouthshire schools (Ysgol Y Ffin, Trellech and Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales Primary Schools) have engaged in a RVE Curriculum design course to plan provision for RVE. The course will be repeated in the Summer Term.
- Primary Humanities RVE meeting – 12th October 2023
- Further curriculum planning training from Lat Blaylock, National RE Adviser on 28th/29th November 2023
- Termly collective worship conversations continue – next on 18th October 2023 – all schools welcome.
- A Google Forms document is on hold. It has not been possible to share this with schools due to the current “Action Short of Strike”.
- There is a free Philosophy for Children course online for all Welsh teachers via www.sapere.org.uk. A further Philosophy for Children course is being run for Church Schools on the topic of “Virtues” which will be shared with all church schools in future. A Member had experience of a Philosophy for Children course and strongly welcomed its availability.
- The EAS RVE Partner has visited Chepstow Comprehensive School and will be visiting Trellech Primary School. There are concerns that some comprehensive schools have no RVE specialists resulting in provision at Key Stage 4 being lacking. SAC should consider how the comprehensive schools in this position can be supported.

5. WASACRE Business

The WASACRE items of business were noted.

The draft minutes from the summer meeting will be circulated to all Members.

The invitation to the Autumn Meeting will be circulated to all members. It will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 25 October 2023, between 10.30am and 1pm. Four members of SAC are entitled to attend. County Councillor L. Brown indicated her wish to attend.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting was changed from 6th December to Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 3pm due to its proximity to the next Council meeting.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics
(SAC) held
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 3.00 pm**

The meeting ended at 4.10 pm

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Annwyl Glerc i GYS / GYSAG

CYNHADLEDD CCYSAGauC 2024

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe baech yn rhannu'r wybodaeth ganlynol am Gynhadledd CCYSAGauC 2024 (mewn partneriaeth â PYCAG) gyda'ch CYS / CYSAG.

Mae rhaglen gynhyrfus o ddiwyddiadau'r Gynhadledd yn cael ei threfnu ar gyfer tymor yr haf 2024. Mae'r Gynhadledd yn cynnwys:

- Dydd y Gynhadledd, **dydd Iau, 13 Mehefin 2024 (Prifysgol Wrecsam, Wrecsam)**, gyda phrif siaradwr, **Jeremy Miles AS, Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**;
- a chyfres o seminarau ar-lein (cyn ac ar ôl Dydd y Gynhadledd).

Mae'r rhain i gyd yn rhad ac am ddim i GYSau / GYSAGau sy'n aelodau o GCYSAGauC ac ymarferwyr yn eu hawdurdodau lleol.

ARCHEBU EICH LLE

Gellir archebu lle ar gyfer Dydd y Gynhadledd (dydd Iau, 13 Mehefin 2024).

Nid yw CCYSAGauC yn gosod cyfyngiad ar nifer y cynrychiolwyr o'ch awdurdod lleol.

I archebu, dilynwch y ddolen hon:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wOfJNhpGnk>

NODAU'R GYNHADLEDD

Nod Cynhadledd CCYSAGauC yw:

- dathlu crefydd, gwerthoedd a moeseg (CGM) yn y Cwricwlwm i Gymru;
- darparu cyfleoedd dysgu proffesiynol sylweddol i'n CYSau a'u hysgolion;
- cynnig cyfleoedd i godi a thrafod materion sy'n wirioneddol bwysig i CGM yng Nghymru;
- gwneud cysylltiadau a rhannu mewnwelediadau ledled Cymru.

Rwyf wedi atodi taflen Saesneg a Chymraeg am y Gynhadledd.

Bydd rhagor o fanylion am y Gynhadledd yn cael eu rhannu y tymor nesaf.

Diolch yn fawr.

Alice Parry

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Dear Clerk to SAC / SACRE

WASACRE CONFERENCE 2024

I would be grateful if you would you share the following information about the WASACRE Conference 2024 (in partnership with NAPfRE) with your SAC.

An exciting programme of Conference events is being planned for the summer term 2024. The Conference includes:

- an in-person Conference Day on **Thursday, 13 June 2024 (at Wrexham University, Wrexham)** with keynote speaker, **Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language**;
- a series of online seminars (pre-and post-Conference Day).

All Conference events are free to SACs / SACREs who are members of WASACRE and practitioners in their local authorities.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Booking is now open for the Conference Day on Thursday, 13 June 2024.

WASACRE is not placing a limit on the number of representatives from your local authority.

To book, follow this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wOfJNhpgNk>

CONFERENCE AIMS

The WASACRE Conference 2024 aims to:

- celebrate religion, values and ethics (RVE) in the Curriculum for Wales;
- provide significant professional learning opportunities for our member SACs and their schools;
- offer opportunities to raise and discuss issues that really matter for RVE in Wales;
- make connections and share insights across Wales.

I have attached an English and Welsh flyer for the Conference.

Further details about the conference will be shared next term.

Many thanks.

Alice Parry

-

Alice Parry

Secretary to WASACRE

Head of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Llanishen High School

RVE

**Creativity
Connection
Confidence**



Keynote Speaker
Jeremy Miles AM

Minister for Education & Welsh Language

Conference

An exciting programme
for all those involved
in RVE and the
Curriculum for Wales

For further information visit:

<https://wasacre.org.uk/wasacre-conference-2024/>

Booking details :

<https://forms.office.com/e/wOfJNhpGnk>

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CCYSAGauC



2024

June 13th
Wrexham

Ffurflen archebu / Booking
form: Cynhadledd CCYSAGauC
2024 WASACRE Conference



WASACRE

in partnership with **NAPFRE**

CGM

Creadigrwydd
Cysylltiad
Hyder



Prif Siaradwr

Jeremy Miles AS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Cynhadledd

2024

Rhaglen gynhyrfus i
bawb sydd â diddordeb
yn CGM a'r Cwricwlwm
i Gymru

Mehefin 13
Wreccsam

Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch i:

<https://wasacre.org.uk/wasacre-conference-2024/>

Manylion archebu:

<https://forms.office.com/e/wOf3NhpGnk>

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CCYSAGauC



Ffurflen archebu / Booking
form: Cynhadledd CCYSAGauC
2024 WASACRE Conference



CCYSAGauC

Mewn partneriaeth a PYCAG