

Minutes of the meeting

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Microsoft TEAMS on 29 June 2022

TaS welcomed everyone to the AGM. Following an addition made to the attendance list (Ellie Chard, Denbighshire) RS proposed to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on 19th June 2023 and PL seconded.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. WASACRE Report for 2023-24

TaS presented the WASACRE report for 2023-2024 and reported the following:

It was another very busy year for WASACRE, particularly with the preparations for the WASACRE Conference, which had taken up a great deal of time and energy.

This year the association has met three times, once each term. The autumn meeting was hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taf SACRE / SAC on 25 October, 2023 through Zoom. The spring meeting was hosted by Carmarthenshire SACRE / SAC on 5 March, 2023 through Zoom. The summer meeting was replaced by the WASACRE RVE Conference Day (in partnership with NAPfRE) on 13 June, 2024 and held in Wrexham. WASACRE is very grateful for the continued support of SACREs and SACs with their hosting of these meetings.

The Executive Committee also met each term via Zoom. The Committee had a full agenda throughout the year, which included the following items and activities:

- ⇒ Continued consideration of the Curriculum for Wales and response to developments relating directly to RVE and RE within the Curriculum for Wales.
- ⇒ Advice and support given to Advisors and SACREs / SACs in response to their enquiries. This included the creation of an infographic and a 'How we support our member SACs' infographic which was shared in hard copy form at the Conference.
- ⇒ Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (with a NAPfRE representative) met with Welsh Government colleagues as part of WASACREs established regular cycle of meetings. These meetings gave opportunity to raise issues of importance to local SACREs / SACs. In addition, agenda items included the recruitment crisis in RS GCSE and A-level and ITE, professional learning resources, aspects of the summary of legislation on Hwb, and the presentation of SAC annual reports among other topical issues. The recruitment crisis issue is being taken forward with Kevin Palmer from Welsh Government in conversation with WASACRE.
- ⇒ The completion by WASACRE of the second phase of the major national professional learning partnership between the Welsh Government and WASACRE. The second batch of national professional learning resources is currently awaiting publication on the Welsh

Government Hwb. All resources are rigorously quality assured before publication on the Welsh Government Hwb.

- ⇒ Representatives from the WASACRE Executive Committee (often with a NAPfRE representative) met with various organisations both within and outside Wales on a number of occasions throughout the year. Within Wales this included a number of meetings with Qualifications Wales in relation to the 14-16 qualifications.
- ⇒ Considerable work has been put into the preparations for the WASACRE RVE Conference 2024 in partnership with NAPfRE. The Conference has included a free series of pre- and post-Conference Day online seminars in the summer term as well as the in-person Conference Day in Wrexham on 13 June 2024.
- ⇒ WASACRE funded a teacher to attend the EFTRE Conference in August 2023. The Conference was also attended by two WASACRE Officers who had alternative sources of funding.
- ⇒ The accounts 2022 -2023 were presented at the summer AGM 2023:

A statement of accounts and a report explaining the information was presented. It was noted that income exceeded expenditure for the year by £8969.44. All SACREs / SACs paid their subscriptions for the year. It was noted that the financial position remained in a healthy condition and that the level of funds available to WASACRE to fund its planned activities was encouraging, especially with the planned WASACRE Conference coming up. It was recommended and agreed that the yearly subscription for 2023-2024 would remain the same in light of the current difficult financial circumstances.

- ⇒ At the Summer AGM 2023 two members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period of 2023-2026: Jenny Downes (Denbighshire SACRE) and the joint nomination of Marged Williams and Tyler Saunders representing the Vale of Glamorgan.
- ⇒ As there were no 'physical meetings' NAPfRE presentations have been kept to a minimum and focused on the most immediate priority.
 - The Rhondda Cynon Taf meeting on 25 October 2023 included a presentation by Alice Parry, Secretary to WASACRE: Through the eyes of a teacher: Report from the Conference of the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education (EFTRE).
 - The Carmarthenshire meeting on 5 March 2024 included presentations by Liz Thomas, Provincial Director of Education for the Church in Wales, on Objective, critical and pluralistic RVE in the primary classroom and Tania ap Sion, Chair of WASACRE, on What Covid-19 reveals to religious education specialists in Europe?
 - The Conference Day on 13 June 2024 in Wrexham included a wide range of keynote presentations and workshops from around Wales. Pre- and post-conference online seminars extended the scope of presentations available to support RVE in the Curriculum for Wales.

TaS confirmed that post meeting, this report will be translated into Welsh and made available bilingually for onward distribution to SACREs.

As outgoing Chair of WASACRE, TaS thanked all member SACREs / SACs for their commitment to the Association and their support. TaS also thanked Executive Committee members for all their hard work, without whom WASACRE activities would not be possible.

RT congratulated WASACRE on a successful conference, acknowledging the hard work of the organisers and presenters, and wished TaS all the best.

RB thanked TaS for a very detailed report and enquired about the impact of WASACRE at classroom level.

TaS gave the following response:

WASACRE is an association that brings together SACs and partners, e.g. NAPfRE, the Welsh Government, Estyn, and Qualifications Wales amongst others. Without WASACRE, these important relationships, conversations and subsequent projects would not be happening the way they do. Things like the bespoke RVE professional learning modules on Hwb and the WASACRE Conference professional learning opportunities and resources are immediately relevant to the classroom, and all of WASACREs' work, both seen and unseen has a trickle-down effect to the classroom.

PW commented on the close relationship between WASACRE and NAPfRE. Every Advisor in Wales is a member of NAPfRE and regularly attend WASACRE meetings, which means that they are knowledgeable and able to support their local authorities and schools. WASACRE has helped to shape what RVE looks like in Wales and continues to provide continuity in Wales, whilst remaining respectful to local determination.

3. Treasurer's report

JM, WASACRE's Treasurer, presented the 2023-2024 report.

During the year expenditure exceeded income by £3,718.66. Reasons for this are explained in the Treasurer's report and relate mainly to payments that were received after the end of this financial year. The balance at the start of the year was £54,472.23 and at the end of year £50,753.57. Therefore, the finances of WASACRE remain in a healthy condition and the level of funds available to WASACRE, to fund its planned activities is encouraging. This is especially important due to the substantial funding needed to cover the significant costs of the WASACRE Conference, for which invoices will be paid from the 2024-2025 budget. It is anticipated that the accounts will look quite different next year.

- ⇒ Main source of income is from annual subscriptions. This has resulted in an income of £7,920.00 which represents the 16 subscriptions received during the financial year. The remaining 4 SACRE subscriptions for 2023/2024 have now been received.
- ⇒ Main expenditure is the cost of holding the meetings including translation, production of minutes and secretarial arrangements.

EE proposed to adopt the statement of accounts and AP seconded.

JM commented that the raised profile of WASACRE and the important work it is doing to support SACs in supporting their schools with RVE in the Curriculum for Wales, shows that the Association is worth subscribing to.

JM raised the proposal to the Executive Committee that due to the financial difficulties experienced by LAs it would be appropriate not to raise the subscription for the 2024/25. JM's recommendation was supported by Executive Committee.

RT proposed and RS seconded the proposal that the WASACRE subscription fee is to be retained at £495 for 2023/2024

JM ran through the proposed regular expenses; these do not change year on year.

RT proposed and EE seconded. The regular expenses were agreed.

TaS confirmed that post meeting, this report will be translated into Welsh and made available bilingually for onward distribution to SACREs and SACs.

TaS thanked JM for his dedicated work in the Treasurer's role

4. Confirmation of Chair

Vice Chair Edward Evans moves into the position of Chair.

5. Election of members to the Executive

TaS reported that two nominations were received for the two available places. According to the code of practice when the number of nominations equals the number of places, there is no requirement for a vote to take place.

TaS welcomed Rachel Samuel as Vice Chair, and Kathy Riddick who is continuing her role as an Executive member of WASCARE.

6. AOB pertinent to an AGM

None

7. Date of next meeting

To be explored and circulated as soon as possible.

TaS thanked Wrexham SACRE and SAC for hosting the meeting today at Wrexham University. TaS also thanked all the attendees to the meeting and the translator for their excellent work.

Meeting closed at 15.45 p.m.