

DRAIG WERDD - THE WELSH SOCIETY IN IRELAND

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MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Location: held on line over zoom

Date : 23 November 2022 at 8.30pm

Attendees:

Committee members :-

Richard Morgan (Chairman), Geraint Waters (Treasurer), Anne Buttimore (Secretary)
Gareth Llwyd Jones, Andrew Thomas, Angharad Williams, Justin Smith.

D.W. Members :-

Ann Walsh, Greg Owen, Keith Young, Janice Johnson, Catrin Duffy.

Apologies:

Robin Smith.

Proposal

It is proposed that the constitution of the society be suspended, with the effect that management of the society by a committee and the holding of an annual general meeting is also suspended. Any activities will be managed through the Draig Werdd website and the Draig Werdd Facebook group, which will continue to operate. A number of trustees will be elected to manage the society's assets - these consist solely of an AIB current account.

RM (Chairman) opened up the meeting to welcome everyone, and to explain that we were here to discuss the above proposal. He stated that, 'Draig Werdd' had been in existence for 21 years since 2001, and had made a big contribution to Welsh people in Ireland, with its wide range of activities both formal and informal. This is evident, as there is an interest in all things Welsh, and the Facebook followers have climbed to 452. Richard is now retiring as Chairman of the Society.

GW shared the screen to display the above proposal for discussion. GW queried as to whether we should carry on with a formal committee if there was not a lot of interest for it, and it might be more appropriate to carry on in a less formal way, and through the website to generate topical interests. This is based on the difficulty in getting enough people for a committee, and RM and AB are retiring from their positions. There is a need to target young Welsh people to see what their needs are.

GO stated that the numbers attending the EGM was poor which proves the lack of interest in formality. The main function was the St David's Day dinner, but he thinks that informal meets are preferred.

AB said that from Covid zooms and Facebook comments, that Welsh people are all over Ireland, and maybe they would like to have their own St David's Day celebrations locally.

Angharad W stated that informal events need organising too.

AT has been in touch with the Welsh Government Office in Ireland with regard to St David's Day 2023. He talked to Ian Quick who is Kathryn Hallett's replacement. Ian Quick was keen to know more about Draig Werdd, and to incorporate it into any party or events that will be organised for St David's day 2023. AT felt that it was the way forward to have a relationship with the Welsh Government office in Ireland, and to encourage Welsh culture.

BM thought that planning for St David's Day 2023 could be discussed without a formal committee.

GLIJ would prefer if the committee stayed the same, maybe reduced in numbers depending on the constitution of the society.

KY suggested forming a working steering group by way of the website as there are approximately 200 members on the list and 452 Facebook members.

General Comments

CD said that she had enjoyed a successful event held at The Dropping Well to celebrate St David's Day 2019 before Covid. However, she felt that there needed to be more sociability and Welcome at these events.

Ann W wondered whether an evening could be held where Welsh people talked about their particular area of Wales.

JS said that he had met many people through the Welsh connection, and thought that the event held at Epic in 2020 before Covid was very successful.

Angharad W and JS stated that if a steering group is formed, then the finances would need to be managed.

GW said that Trustees would have to be appointed to take care of the money which includes € 2772 in donations for the chapel plaque. Recent enquiries have been made re: erecting the plaque because of its position as a listed building, but with no favourable response so far.

GW said that he was happy to stay on as Treasurer to look after the money as he is the signatory on the Bank account, and looks after the website.

Four people were suggested and are willing to stand for the Steering group.

Angharad Williams, Justin Smith, Andrew Thomas, Geraint Waters.

This group will be able to organise St David's Day 2023

GO suggested that that this core management group could operate a dynamic system with responsibility and power to call people in and out as required.

GW said that the constitution would have to be re written to become informal with this smaller core group. instead of having a hierarchical committee, and it would also need the power to co-op people as necessary/required.

GW proposed :-

We continue with a reduced committee, of 4 people :- AW, JS, AT, GW. to manage the society over the next few months, leading towards an EGM in May 2023 to revise the Constitution.

GW asked for a show of hands.

11 people supported the proposal, with 1 abstention

CD thanked the committee for their hard work.

JJ seconded that.

The new Steering group of 4 members will communicate on What's App.

As there was no other business, **RM** closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

Anne Buttimore November 23rd 2022