



**Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith Cymdeithas CYSAGau Cymru/  
Wales Association of SACREs Executive Committee meeting**

**Dydd Iau, 29 Medi 2016, Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod Wells  
/ Tuesday, 29 September 2016, Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod Wells**

**Minutes**

1. Croeso / *Welcome*

Phil welcomed members to the Executive meeting, especially to new members Mat and Hugh.

2. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Vicky Thomas, Cllr Ernie Galsworthy, Gill Vaisey.

3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (10/05/2016) / *Minutes of the last Executive meeting (10/05/2016)*

Typos aside, members accepted the minutes as a true record.

Action: LJ has amended typos and included page numbers.

4. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

Item 4. Action 3. This item was discussed in terms of where WASACRE is up to with it since the change in Minister. It was decided that the issue regarding the residual powers of Westminster for Education in Wales should be put to the New Minister for Education and Skills, Kirsty Williams and a face to face meeting should be requested with the Minister as a way of introducing WASACRE and the current situation with regard to RE in Wales.

Item 5. Action 2. Members discussed the possibility of sharing the withdrawal guidance document with the Executive committee. Once the text is agreed the document can go to translation. It was decided that Bethan James will check with Gill and Rheinalt about translation.

Item 5. Action 3. It was decided that the letter to political parties was now unnecessary and the question of the Governments current stance on matters relating to RE and its legislation could be put to the Minister at the proposed meeting.

Item 8. The document is nearly ready. Bethan gave members a brief description of the *What is Good RE?* document and its context. Bethan referred members to the Welsh Government guidance document, *Curriculum for Wales a Curriculum for life*, and Ysgol Cwm Rhymnu's case study which is currently available on the Estyn website, for them to look at to get a better overview.

Item 9. EFTRE Conference. Phil gave a brief feedback to members about the conference he attended. Phil described it as 'very academic' and explained that currently children are seen as a commodity across Europe and this issue was on the agenda along with the concerns this raises. He confirmed that there are issues across Europe with regard to confessional RE being taught on the whole and the right to a confessional RE for each child from their own faith tradition.

Action 1: Edward Evans will write to Kirsty Williams with regard to the residual powers of Westminster for Education in Wales.

Action 2: Libby Jones to request meeting with Kirsty Williams and WASACRE representatives.

Action 3: Bethan James will liaise with Gill and Rheinalt about translation of the Withdrawal from RE document.

5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 23 Mehefin 2016 / *Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 23 June 2016*

Typos and amendments aside, members accepted the minutes as a true record of the meeting.



Action: LJ has amended the typos, sent them for translation and has circulated the minutes to all SACRES.

6. Cyngor AG Cymru a Lloegr / *RE Council for England and Wales*

Phil informed members that the subscription for WASACRE's membership to the REC is due. The REC is changing their policy on subscriptions which means that WASACRE might be able to pay a reduced fee of £99, although we have missed the deadline to opt for this. Phil gave some context of the relationship between REC and Wales/WASACRE. Phil gave members the options WASACRE has in terms of their relationship in the future. Members decided to pay the subscription of £99 and continue as we have been doing. Members decided that it would be appropriate for Phil to invite Rudi the Chief Executive Officer for the REC to another Executive meeting taking place in the South.

Action: Phil to email Rudi with the dates of the Executive meetings in the south during 2017.

7. Manylebau TGAU diwygiedig ar gyfer Astudiaethau Crefyddol / *Revised GCSE Specifications for Religious Studies*

Members discussed what was happening with regard to Welsh Government support for the new GCSE specification for RS across regional consortia.

ERRW- 6 counties, 3 Hubs- An advert was released at the end of last term for three RE teachers to be seconded for 12 days to support teachers and to produce resources for the new specification. This is a very recent development. There is also a Lead practitioner for the area. As the specification is still in draft only they cannot start the work. Mary Parry has asked the Lead Practitioner teacher to speak at the next WASACRE meeting.

GwE- A similar picture. 6 counties, 3 Hubs, 4 Lead Practitioner Teachers including one Senior Lead. The Senior Lead Practitioner has 30 days and the other 3 have 15 days each. These teachers are responsible for supporting teachers and facilitating sharing good practice and they have all agreed to present at their local SACRE meeting.

Bethan commented that a number of regions and groups have got a Hub and have set up digital account for RE teachers to share resources.

Mary offered to ask the Carmarthenshire Lead Practitioner to attend the November WASACRE meeting and Libby Jones offered to ask Mefys Jones from GwE to attend the Summer WASACRE meeting.

Members confirmed that the committee did not know what is happening in other consortia, but agreed to make enquiries.

Action 1: Mary to ask Carmarthenshire Lead practitioner to present at the November meeting.

Action 2: Libby to ask Mefys Jones to present at the AGM in Wrexham.

Action 3: Bethan will circulate a pro-forma to RE advisors for them to complete with information about what is happening on their patch.

8. Cynrychiolaeth Dyneiddwyr ar CYSAGau/ *Humanist representation on SACRES*



Libby Jones shared a letter from Kathy Riddick of the Wales Humanists and Phil Lord explained a discussion that took place at the recent Welsh Government meeting regarding an email sent to Welsh Government regarding the difficulties Humanists have experienced in joining SACREs in Wales. A discussion ensued. It was decided that WASACRE follows the current legislation and guidance on this issue and has explained their position on a number of occasions. There was a consensus of opinion that this is the responsibility of Welsh Government rather than WASACRE to confirm current legislation and protocol with the Wales Humanists.

Action: PL and LJ to contact Welsh Government colleagues with WASACRE's concerns.

9. Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government matters*

- Cyfarfod Llywodraeth Cymru 13 Medi 2016/ *Welsh Government contact meeting 13 September 2016*

Items discussed: Lead practitioners; Humanist Reps on SACRE; Welsh Baccalaureate; Pioneer schools and curriculum development; Annual Reports; WG religious observance doc. See minutes from WG meeting.

Action 1: Libby Jones to send a reminder to all SACREs of the process advised by Welsh Government that SACREs should follow for schools not meeting statutory requirement for KS4

Action 2: WASACRE will send the *What is Good RE?* document to Manon Jones as soon as it is ready.

Action 3: Libby Jones will write a letter of thanks to Welsh Government for its promise to review the SACRE Annual Reports annually, and to include recommendations in its report in due time for officers to respond.

10. Cynhadledd EFTRE diweddar / *EFTRE Conference up-date*- Phil Lord

Phil Lord informed members that all the presentations from the recent conference are up on the EFTRE website, PL invited members to have look. There is an EFTRE Executive meeting is November 2016. Members agreed that WASACRE will fund the trip for Phil to attend.

11. Canlyniadau Bagloriaeth Cymru / *Welsh Baccalaureate Survey*

This item was covered in other items above.

12. Swyddogion y Association / *Officers of the Association*

Libby Jones is stepping down as Secretary to WASACRE. Paula Webber will be standing in as Secretary and will do the general administration work of Secretary. WASACRE Executive meetings and WASACRE main meetings would need to be on one of her days off, either a Wednesday or Friday. Members agreed to this. John Mitson suggested a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

John Mitson has been co-opted back on to Powys SACRE following his retirement from Powys Local Authority, and so he is able to continue as Treasurer for WASACRE. Members were very grateful to John for his service thus far and for agreeing to stay on. Members decided that the Treasurers position requires an honorarium. Amount to be decided.



13. Gwefan CCYSAGauC /WASACRE Website

Members suggested that in negotiation with her role as Secretary that Paula might take responsibility for the website. Members also discussed where we are up to with plans for a new design of the current website.

Action1: Libby Jones and Phil lord to Email Paula regarding her new position as Secretary.

Action 2: Libby to ask Gill Vaisey about the new design of the website and where we are up to with plans.

14. Gohebiaeth / Correspondence

A number of items were shared, but members were in agreement that there was no further action needed with any.

Mary Parry (or was it Bethan James?) informed members that this November will be Rheinallt Thomas's last meeting as a representative for SACRE. Members decided that they would like to recognise Rheinallt's significant long service to RE in Wales without setting a precedent.

Action 1: Edward to enquire about a suitable gift.

Action 2: Bethan to enquire about words for an inscription

15. Agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Sir Gaerfyrddin), 18 Tachwedd 2016 / *Agenda for the Association meeting (Carmarthenshire), 18 November 2016.*

The agenda for the November meeting was discussed and agreed.

16. U.F.A. / A.O.B

Dyddiad cyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Gwaith / *Date of the next Executive meeting:*

Spring 1 or 8 Feb 2017- City United Reformed Church, Cardiff

Summer 17 May 2017- Llanerch Inn, Llandrindod Wells

Autumn 27 September 2017- City United Reformed Church, Cardiff