



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

**Dydd Mercher, 30 Medi 2015, Llanerch Inn,
Llandrindod / Wednesday, 30 September 2015, Llanerch Inn,
Llandrindod Wells**

Minutes

1. Croeso / *Welcome*

Acting Chair, Phil Lord welcomed members to the meeting. Phil talked about the importance of building new links and strengthening existing links between WASACRE and other relevant RE bodies in Wales, England, UK, Europe and beyond in order for the Association to remain effective and appropriately connected. Phil assured members that in his new capacity as Chair of WASACRE he was committed to this.

Action: N/A

2. Ymddiheuriadau / *Apologies*

Apologies were offered from Tania, ap Sion, Edward Evans, Tim Rowlands and Ruth Davies.

Libby Jones passed on a message from Edward Evans sent with his apology for the meeting, regarding his retirement from the clergy and was able to confirm that he would be continuing as a representative of Bridgend SACRE. Members asked Libby to pass on their best wishes for his retirement. Discussion about membership on the Executive committee ensued. It was confirmed that Rheinallt Thomas represented Ynys Mon SACRE and not the Free Church Council of Wales, and therefore would not need to be replaced. A proposal was made for membership to the Executive committee to be discussed further as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Action: Libby Jones will check the constitution and act accordingly with regard to membership and send thanks to Rheinallt for his service to the Executive committee. Libby Jones will put WASACRE Executive Membership on the agenda for the next meeting

3. Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf (11/05/2015) / *Minutes of the last Executive meeting (11/05/2015)*

The minutes were accepted as true record of the meeting

Action: N/A

4. Materion yn codi / *Matters arising*

Item 4. Discussion ensued about the WASACRE website including various questions regarding links, information and up-dates. Item 5. Members agreed that the minutes of main meetings should be written up in draft form and emailed to Executive members within two weeks for their comments, including a deadline for changes to be offered. The minutes should then be sent for translation and

once the bilingual minutes have been finalised they should be sent out to SACREs, before the next executive meeting. Item 6. Members agreed that (more) teachers need to be at WASACRE meetings so that they can benefit from the relevant presentations offered. For example, Marry Parry's recent presentation on tackling the under achievement of boys in RE. A discussion ensued and various ideas and issues were considered including; WASACRE contributing to/paying teachers expenses to attend meetings; using one WASACRE meeting per year as a CPD event for teachers; collecting teachers viewpoints on items before the meetings take place and being shared by the SACRE representatives present; holding SACRE meetings in schools to ensure that the profile is raised and to encourage teacher attendance; school to school collaborations facilitated by SACREs. Item 7. Phil Lord thanked Libby Jones for giving the presentation on collective worship at the last WASACRE meeting. Item 9. Gill Vaisey confirmed that in the guidance material she is currently producing she is focusing on RE and not collective worship. In particular she is focusing on the process of managing withdrawal from RE. Gill has approached AREIAC for information to assist her with this as well as from other appropriate organisations.

Action: Item 4. Libby Jones will ask the website technician, Margaret West to put the REQM link on website. Libby will also put the WASACRE website on the agenda for the next Executive meeting and have it as a regular agenda item. All Executive members will keep thinking of ideas for the website and bring them to the next meeting. Item 5. Libby Jones will complete all future minutes as requested above. Item 6. All Executive members will investigate their own SACREs on its actual teacher attendance at main meetings and any financial support offered. Phil Lord will feed back on how School to School collaborative working is running.

5. Cofnodion cyfarfod CCYSAGauC, 25 Mehefin 2015 / *Minutes of the WASACRE meeting, 25 June 2015*

With the required amendments made to the attendance list the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Action: Vicky Thomas will send Lynda Maddocks' email address to Libby. Libby will deal with all amendments to the minutes and organise translation and circulation to SACRE Clerks

6. Ymddiswyddiad Gavin / *Gavin's resignation*

Phil Lord expressed that he was truly sorry to be assuming the position of Chair so early and unexpectedly. Having worked closely with Gavin for a number of years he is aware that Gavin needs to spend more time with his family and fully respects his decision to resign. Gavin has been a very good friend to the RE world and a prolific ambassador for WASACRE. Phil Lord wished Gavin well for the future and proposed that a card and letter of grateful thanks should be sent from WASACRE. Phil Lord will assume the position of Chair, but the position of Vice Chair will remain vacant until a new Vice Chair is voted in at the 2016 AGM. Tania ap Sion takes the position as Immediate Past Chair and will Chair meetings in Phil's absence if necessary.

Action: LJ to write and send letter to Gavin Craigen from WASACRE

7. Mae'r ymgynghoriad Aelod Cyngor AG - Adroddiad Clark - Woodhead /The RE Council Member consultation- Clark-Woodhead Report

Phil talked to members regarding the WASACRE response to the RE Council survey, which members had been sent prior to the meeting for their input and information. He explained some of the comments he had included within the response and gave reasons for why they were included.

Action:N/A

8. Materion Llywodraeth Cymru / *Welsh Government matters*

- Adolygiad Donaldson- newidiadau arfaethedig i Addysg Grefyddol/ *Donaldson review – proposed changes to Religious Education*

Members discussed the current situation and the Minister's response to WASACRE's request for further clarification on RE's place within the review and proposed change of name for RE. Members agreed that there was nothing new to report at this point, but urged caution and suggested keeping a watchful eye on what the Welsh Government proposes with regard to RE and what he has planned.

Action: All members to keep a watching brief on the situation

- Cyfarfod Llywodraeth Cymru- 24.9.2015/ *Welsh Government contact meeting- 24.9.2015*

Phil Lord and Libby Jones shared the main points raised at the meeting and were able to confirm that although representation on the Strategic Stakeholder Group has yet to be decided, WASACRE is expected to be a high level Stakeholder in the review implementation process through the Pioneer Network. To ensure WASACRE's place in the Strategic Stakeholder Group Welsh Government have requested that WASACRE draw up a proposal which will be presented to the Independent Advisory Group which explains what and how WASACRE can contribute to the review process. Welsh Government would find it particularly useful to know the connections WASACRE has with different faith groups across Wales and other related groups within the RE world with which it works closely, both nationally and internationally.

In response to this request Executive members confirmed that WASACRE would have to go through the Hindu Council for Wales and the Muslim Council for Wales when looking at and for possible connections. It was also confirmed that the Secretary to The Ministers Faith Forum is Jim Stewart.

Welsh Government colleagues were able to confirm during the meeting that RE will remain statutory as suggested in Successful Futures, due to the Minister for Education and Skills having accepted all of Professor Donaldson's recommendations (R9). When asked about SACREs place in legislation, Welsh Government colleagues confirmed that ALL legislation will be reviewed, and that there is nothing to report currently in that regard. With regard to the Minister's recent proposal of a change of name for religious education colleagues assured WASACRE that full consultation on the name will be sought and stakeholders will have input. WASACRE was also urged to consider the context in which the Minister proposed the change of name for RE and the wider issue of extremism starting to gain a larger profile in Wales. Colleagues seemed to accept and understand that Scotland's use of Religious and Moral Education as a name would not truly reflect what RE actually is in Wales.

Other items discussed at the meeting included up-dates on collective worship and a request from Welsh Government for more statistical data on applications for withdrawal. WASACRE agreed to ask SACREs for this information; The Welsh Government Review of SACRE Annual Reports which it was confirmed will remain on a 3 yearly cycle but with a promise that the report would be published more quickly; SACRE membership and in particular Humanist representation on individual SACREs. Welsh Government requested further information regarding this from WASACRE which Libby Jones will follow up.

Action: Libby to send the notes from that meeting to the Executive Committee. Phil and Libby will put together a proposal for WG and to approach the various relevant faith councils. A draft proposal will be ready for the NAPfRE meeting in November and for the detail to be added then by the wider NAPfRE group. Libby will write to SACREs informing them of the discussions of the WG meeting and the requests for information, a copy of the letter from Huw Lewis will also be attached.

9. Cyngor AG Cymru a Lloegr (diweddar) / *RE Council for England and Wales (up-date)*
The current situation with regard to WASACREs place and future within the REC was discussed. Phil Lord wants to keep the dialogue open with REC. Members agreed for Gill Vaisey to represent WASACRE as the 2nd representative with Tania ap Sion. Gill will attend meetings,

report back as to the relevance and worthwhile nature of being a member and will ensure that Welsh issues are raised at the meetings.

Action: Libby will give Gill's details to Naomi so that she can be sent all the details for future meetings.

Libby will invite Rudi, the Chief Executive of REC to the next Executive meeting. Rudi will be asked to talk about the REC and to be an observer for the rest of the meeting.

10. Bagloriaeth Cymru / Welsh Baccalaureate

Members agreed that there was nothing to report on this currently, but to keep a watching brief.

Action: N/A

11. Gohebiaeth / Correspondence

An email was received from a Dr Yafa Shanneik from the University of South Wales which has a new Religious Studies programme that they would like to promote at WASACRE. Members agreed that this would be setting a precedent and therefore not appropriate, but that it could be raised under correspondence at the next meeting. Members were happy for promotional flyers to be available at the next meeting for members to take if they wish.

Action: Libby will contact Dr Shanneik to request Flyers for the next meeting and raise this under correspondence.

12. Agenda ar gyfer cyfarfod y Gymdeithas (Ebbw Vale), 25 Tachwedd 2015 / Agenda for the Association meeting (Ebbw Vale), 25 November 2015.

There will be two NAPfRE presentations at the meeting in Ebbw Vale. The first will be from Liz Arthur *Exploring Faith in the Primary School*, which will take place in the morning session due to her teaching commitments, and the second presentation will be an update from WJEC on the revised GCSE and GCE specification and will take place in the afternoon.

Action: Libby will amend the agenda accordingly and send out to Executive for checking before wider dissemination. Libby will contact WJEC regarding their presentation and confirm the titles for both. Libby will invite Owain ap Daffydd who may be able to give an up-date on the Curriculum Review at the meeting.

13. U.F.A. / A.O.B

Gill asked members for their help in writing a few words about Denize Morris for circulation to AREIAC members to advise them of her passing. Members talked fondly about Denise and agreed that a minute's silence at the next meeting would be appropriate.

Action: Gill will write up an appropriate tribute and send them to AREIAC. Libby will ensure that the minute's silence for Denize takes place at the next meeting at an appropriate time.

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

4 February 2016 and 12 May 2016 venues to be confirmed