



One World Link



The friendship link between Bo in Sierra Leone and Warwick District, UK
Registered charity No. 700714 www.oneworldlink.org.uk

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

1st December 2012 - Dale St Methodist Church Leamington Spa

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked our distinguished guests for coming along.
2. **Attendance:** 26 members 4 guests
In addition there were 4 distinguished guests:
Cllr Judith Clark – deputy mayor of Leamington Town Council
Cllr Michael Doody – Chairman of Warwick County Council
And his consort Mrs Sheila Doody
Cllr Michael Kinson – Chairman of Warwick District Council

The list of attendees is filed with the minute book.

3. **Apologies:**

Kip Warr
Ron Stone
Richard Edwards
Margaret Begg
Ben Wesson
Catherine Moody

4. **Minutes of AGM held 5th November 2011**

Copies were distributed. There were no issues with the minutes. Adoption was proposed by John Myers and seconded by Jane Knight. This was passed unanimously.

5. **Matters arising** – There were no matters arising

6. **Accounts for year ending March 2012**

Ian displayed the accounts as examined and passed by our independent examiner. He stated that after all our activity we had ended the year some £5K below what we

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Secretary: Alan Moss
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Treasurer: Ian Baylis
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ended the 2011 year with however this was due to some agreed expenditure of the legacy fund.

There was a question about the high level of income and expenditure shown in the accounts. Ian explained that this was due to the teacher's trip from Bo where the grant for this from the British Council had been passed through our account.

There was also a comment from the floor about the fact that the accounts were only displayed on screen and not available as a paper copy. The chair agreed that in future years paper copies would be available.

7. Chairs Report:

Chris King explained that it had been another very busy year for OWL. In March a youth group consisting of 6th form students from district schools visited Bo and did some very useful work with the youth there. They held workshops on the use of IT and on working in groups. The visit was made possible by funds raised by the group, by the individuals and also a grant from Leamington Town Council.

In June 5 primary school teachers from Bo came over to work with their link school in the district. They were able to attend the Day of the African Child celebration where 13 primary schools from the district took part.

In Bo we have just witnessed the general elections and we await the outcome and what impact the change will have on OWL in Bo and the work we are doing with the town council in Bo.

The waste project was declared a great success and negotiations are now underway with donors to try to extend the project to a wider area.

The planning project which John Archer is leading made good progress and is now also awaiting the announcement of the new council members in Bo.

Over the year we also continued our programme of outreach with an interesting evening of speakers and discussion on mental health issue in Sierra Leone. John Myers organised 2 showings of the film "When China Met Africa", the second being attended by our MP Chris White.

He ended his round up of the year by looking forward to the coming 12 months.

8. . Election of officers:

Alan Moss explained that Chris King had decided that he should resign as chair due to personal reasons but had agreed to act as joint vice chair. John Archer had agreed to put his name forward as Chair. There were no other nominations for this position.

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Also during the year Richard Edwards had resigned as membership secretary due to work commitments. Catherine Moody had agreed to undertake this role.

The proposed officers are:

Chair – John Archer

Vice chair – Jane Knight

Chris King

Treasurer – Ian Baylis

Secretary – Alan Moss

Membership Secretary – Catherine Moody

Communications Manager – John Myers

It was proposed that these officers be elected en-bloc by Janet Alty and seconded by Margaret Watkins. This was passed unanimously

9. Election of Trustees

In addition to the above the following have agreed to stand as trustees

John McFarlane

Cllr Chris Davis

Andrew Smith

Richard Edwards

Kip Warr

Paul Atkins

James Knight

Ron Stone

Liz Garrett

It was proposed that these trustees be elected en-bloc by Jane Knight and seconded by Chris King. This was passed unanimously.

10. Thanks

John Myers proposed a vote of thanks to Chris King for all the work he had done as Chair. This was endorsed by everyone at the meeting.

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This ended the formal business of the AGM

John Archer took over the Chair of the meeting at this stage

11. Presentation by Mohamed Koroma

Mohamed is the Western District Environmental officer in Sierra Leone and had just ended a visit to the UK to look at how waste management was managed here. He gave the meeting a good insight in to how the waste management project in Hastings Sierra Leone had been developed and rolled out. Following on from the success of this pilot project he was hoping that he would be able to extend the project however he was aware of the difficulties in doing this. The meeting thanked Mohamed for his useful update.

12. Presentation By Keith Wright:

Keith had just returned from Sierra Leone where he had been working as an independent observer during the recent general elections. He explained that in the view of all the observers the elections had been peaceful, fair and well organised and run. Clearly there were issues around who had been elected and he was not sure how the situation would now develop but believed that the people did not want to resolve the issues by violence as had happened in the past. It was very useful for all at the meeting to get this first hand input on the elections and the current situation and he was thanked by chair for taking the time out to come along.

Alan Moss – 11.12.12

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