



MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ADDYSG OEDOLION CYMRU | ADULT LEARNING WALES

Held on Saturday 8 April 2017 at Porth Eirias, Colwyn Bay

Present:

Officers – John Graystone (Interim Chair), Kathryn Robson (Acting Chief Executive), Stephen Thomas (Company Secretary/Clerk to the Council) (3).

Individual Members, Staff & Governors – Vivien Allen, David Ashman, Mark Baines, Miranda Edwards, David Elis-Williams, Tudur Evans, Jeremy Gass, Jonathan Goddard, Maria Hartill, Mike Hewitt, Cath Hicks, Llinos Hicks, Gayle Hudson, Glenys Hughes-Jones, Iwan Hywel, Gerry Jenson, Evie Wyn Jones, Nathan Jones, Sarah K Jones, Michelle Kerswell, Ros McAlister, Ronnie Parry, Graham Price, Sharon Reader, Dafydd Rhys, Julie Roberts, Susan Roberts, Toni Schiavone, Mick Scraggs, Nick Taylor, Alan Tinsley, Buddug Wiliam (32).

Individual Members & Branch representatives – Cathy Clark (Blackwood and Oakdale), Jenni Jones-Annetts (Caerphilly), David MacManus (Caerphilly), Sonia Reynolds (Upper Amman and Twrch Valley), Marilyn Thomas (Caerphilly) (5).

Learner Forum or Affiliated & Partner Organisation representatives – Dafydd Eurgain Jones (Ffestiniog Learner Forum), Dilwyn Llwyd (Neuadd Ogwen Learner Forum), Anna Lockwood (Emerge Community Arts) (3).

Performers, Speakers, Auditor & Interpreter – Blues Face Band, Ann Woods, Scott Jenkinson, Siôn Aled Owen (Simultaneous Interpreter); Richard Knoyle (Auditor, Btp Associates Ltd.: minutes 1-3 only) (9).

Apologies:

Leanne Andreadis, Sarah Burrows, Karyl Carter (Stroke Association), Colette Chilcott, Julie Cook (Wales TUC Cymru), Gareth Cork, Deborah Crecraft, Nichola Crow, Andrea Davies, Caroline Davies, Viv Davies, Cath Dawkes, Maggi Dawson, Mandy Doyle, Phil Elias, James Fleming, Jan Francis, Christine Franks, Christopher Franks, Christina Gallagher, Tracy Garnett, Adele Gatt, David Girdler, Dai Griffiths, Fran Griffiths, Adrian Heathfield, Mena Ifans, Jayne Ireland, June Jeremy, Lynne Jones, Victoria Knappett, Matthew Lloyd, Betty Mason, Clive Morgan, William John Morris, Sarah Murphy, Ray Neil, Mary Newman (Global Community Learning Branch), Annie O'Brien, Tim Owen, Sian Raftree (Coleg Harlech Learner Forum), Martyn Reed, Donna Ridler, Lois Roberts (Coleg Harlech Learner Forum), Wendy Roberts, David Smith, Ceinwen Statter (Blackwood and Oakdale branch), Jan Tiley, Lisa Voyle (Llanelli branch), Rebecca Watson Stubbs, Margaret Whitcombe, Heather Willbourn, Ceri Williams, Huw Williams (Merthyr branch), Marjorie Williams (55).

Item	<p style="text-align: center;">ADDYSG OEDOLION CYMRU ADULT LEARNING WALES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017</p>
1.	<p>Welcome and Speaker Contributions</p> <p>John Graystone welcomed everyone, thanked the band Blues Face for its earlier performance, referred to the photographic slide exhibition of work by students of tutor Mick Scraggs, and made some housekeeping announcements.</p> <p>Ann Woods, Chief Officer of our partner organisation Flintshire Local Voluntary Council, then spoke of her 22-year involvement with adult education - as a learner re-engaging after a period of illness, and now as a promoter of its integral role within community work. Her organisation concentrated on people’s wellbeing, health and citizenship activities, all of which were central to the learning provided by Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales. In her representational role she was an advocate of our sector’s importance at national forums such as Wales Council for Voluntary Action. She expressed thanks both personally and professionally for the work undertaken.</p> <p>Scott Jenkinson was a tutor at Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales, and his talk was accompanied by a film of his receipt of a 2015 national Inspire Award for his teaching contributions. He talked of his time as an alcohol and drug abuser, and how Coleg Harlech had presented him a fresh start that, despite a relapse, ended with him studying at Bangor University and undertaking a PGCE course. Now teaching in a homelessness prevention unit with students in rehabilitation and on probation, he also trained teachers. He thanked the WEA (as was) for providing the opportunities that had changed both his feeling of self-worth and his prospects. He received a standing ovation for his talk.</p>
2.	<p>Introduction, approval of minutes of the previous AGM and update on actions taken relating to motions passed there</p> <p>The Chair noted the news of the death of Huw Williams of Bwlchtocyn, a stalwart of his local branch and of the organisation generally in north Wales.</p> <p>He confirmed that the meeting was convened correctly, constitutionally, and was quorate. Sarah K Jones provided a demonstration of the <i>Plickers</i> automated balloting system that would be trialled during a vote later that afternoon.</p> <p>The draft minutes of WEA YMCA CC Cymru’s Annual General Meeting, held at Newport YMCA on 16 April 2016, were approved as a correct record (prop.: Graham Price; sec.: Jenni Jones-Annetts).</p> <p>In terms of follow-up action on the five motions passed at Newport, a paper setting out developments had been provided to all at Registration. On Motion 3 (support for care or childcare costs) Jeremy Gass noted that the provision of crèches explained there, while welcome, was closely linked to Communities First projects</p>

	<p>(about to come to an end) and effectively limited to south east Wales. Sharon Reader responded that Flying Start projects had also provided such support on occasion, and that future grant applications would aim to cover such needs. Given its fluidity, it was agreed that an update on this situation would be provided at the 2018 AGM.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Presentation of Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales’s Annual Report and Financial Statements 2015/16</p> <p>David Elis-Williams, in his capacity as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as was, referred those present to the full Report and Financial Statements made available in English and Welsh for their reference at Registration, expanding on the summary financial document circulated with members’ AGM papers. The Annual Report which covered the first year as the merged WEA YMCA CC Cymru body had been approved by the Council. It had understandably been a transitional year, incorporating a staffing restructure, additional costs resulting from staff changes and an over-provision of teaching. The result was a deficit of £490,000: of the financial objectives set for the organisation for the year 3 had been met and 3 missed.</p> <p>This was the first year in which the accounts were presented under the new Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and the 2015 Further and Higher Education Statement of Recommended Practice. This showed that the recalculated, combined deficit of the pre-merged bodies for 2014/15 was also more significant than previously accounted for, which concerned Graham Price. He wished to receive reassurance that, 8 months into the 2016/17 financial year, controls were in place to ensure that this deficit trend was not continuing, or indeed deteriorating. Mark Baines as Head of Finance and David Elis-Williams said that such assurance questions had been raised at both Committee and Council levels in recent months, and that improvements in student data systems and the staffing restructure had meant tighter monitoring and reduced costs.</p> <p>Richard Knoyle, on behalf of auditors Btp Associates Ltd., referred people to notes at the end of the Financial Statements which explained the recalculations caused by the new accountancy regime. He added that the auditors’ report was an unqualified (i.e. positive) one.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2016 be received (prop.: Gerry Jenson; sec.: Toni Schiavone) and this was unanimously approved.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Appointment of auditors for 2016/17 financial year</p> <p>Encouraged by the Welsh Government’s Audit Code of Practice for Further Education Institutions to review external auditor appointments every five years, the current year still fell within that 5-year cycle. The re-appointment of Btp Associates Ltd. of Merthyr Tydfil as Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales’s auditors</p>

	<p>for 2016/17 (prop.: Jeremy Gass; sec.: Cathy Clark) was unanimously approved by the AGM.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Acting Chief Executive’s Report on the year’s work</p> <p>Kathryn Robson spoke of our 18,000 learners in the 2015-16 academic year as the reason for our existence, and their commitment alongside that of tutors, staff and volunteers – as shown by the performers and photography exhibits on show earlier – as being exemplary. We were sector-leading in our digital work and had achieved success with our Coleg Harlech based learners, all of whom had gained university places. A hand-out provided at Registration explained the demographic background to our work for 2015-16, and also of the 10,000+ learners already taught in the 2016-17 academic year.</p> <p>In her 8 months in post Kathryn Robson had enjoyed participating at Regional Forums and encountering the strong partnerships in place with bodies such as those led by Ann Woods. Our intention was to continue to be the lead provider of adult community learning in Wales. To ensure that would happen, we were integrally linked to the Adult Community Learning (ACL) Review conducted by the Welsh Government and to its follow-up consultation period. Our new name and brand would assist colleagues, members and supporters to achieve the quality and recognition necessary to maintain our prominent position.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Chair’s Report on the past year and list of governors during 2016/17</p> <p>The list of governors who had served in the period since the previous year’s AGM at Newport had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. John Graystone thanked those who had been in post for much of the year, and for whom the pursuit of constitutional change had resulted in two extensions to their terms. He also congratulated the newly-elected and appointed governors who were to serve on the Council that had taken up its role on 1 April 2017.</p> <p>He endorsed what Kathryn Robson had said, and the importance of building on the proud legacies of the two organisations that had merged. Developments of note since the previous AGM were the creation of a new Welsh Government with three appointments sharing the educational portfolio, and the unexpected results of the EU Referendum vote and the US election, all of which underlined the importance of continuing to provide political education to our learners. With the Hazelkorn Review’s conclusions to be acted upon, it was important that further education funding was not muscled out of its rightful priority by other calls on funding. The Welsh Government’s ACL Review had resulted in various options to consider for the future shape of adult learning, with a further option somewhat unexpectedly added recently of Further Education colleges leading on the provision. The membership’s support would be called upon to ensure that the outcome of the current consultation period was the most positive possible for our organisation.</p> <p>Despite growth in the adult population and in inequalities in society, funding for</p>

	<p>further education had reduced over the past decade. He quoted the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, talking of bridging the gap between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’: it perfectly encapsulated our role, in striving for fairness for all and binding society together.</p> <p>Jeremy Gass thanked the Chair for his speech and asked how individual members could provide practical support for the organisation in terms of the ACL Review. While there remained uncertainty as to how consultation on the Review would proceed, the Campaign Group that had played a role within the organisation in the recent past (with a mixture of Council and Committee representatives, plus individual members) would play its part here again. There was uncertainty as to where the fourth option of FE colleges co-ordinating the process had come from - apparently not from lobbying by the colleges themselves, as it was unclear whether they had the infrastructure to carry it out. Kathryn Robson was actively leading on this in the Principals’ group within ColegauCymru. Should the option of an all-Wales co-ordinating body be the one implemented then we would need to work closely with partners and she felt we had good partnerships in place already, including with colleges (especially in northern Wales).</p> <p>Jeremy Gass additionally enquired why the Council that had taken up post the previous week was 3 people short (i.e. of 17 rather than 20 members). The Chair explained that this was because not all appointed seats had been filled through the interview process, and plans were in place to correct this in the coming months. Jeremy Gass also pointed out that the correct term for the organisations’ governing body was ‘Council’: he preferred the title ‘member of Council’ as it encapsulated the three roles that such people had (company director, FE institution governor and charity trustee) and was unhappy to see over-use of the single term ‘governor’ in the AGM’s documents. The 3 roles were important, and indeed he felt the term ‘trustee’ more accurately reflected our voluntary sector background, should a shorthand title be required.</p> <p>The Chair’s report was formally received by the meeting.</p>
7.	<p>Representatives on the courts of Aberystwyth and Cardiff universities</p> <p>Stephen Thomas reminded those present that appointments had been made at the 2015 AGM to 4 university courts on which the organisation (formerly WEA Cymru) had a seat. Due to a change in personnel and the end of one nominee’s period of office, 2 of those places needed filling. Kathryn Robson was nominated for Aberystwyth University and Elaine Gwynne put forward to remain in her role on Cardiff University’s Court. They were both approved, with a suggestion that a more open nomination process be used for such representatives on future occasions.</p>
8.	<p>Motions for Debate</p> <p>Maria Hartill and Mark Baines were elected tellers for the voting procedures on the five motions. The proxy voting system in our constitution meant there were an</p>

additional 46 votes which had been received beforehand by the Company Secretary: the Chair was appointed as proxy for 41 of them, and the remaining 5 were to be cast by various named proxies among members on the Floor. These latter ones would be added to the votes counted by the tellers.

Motion 1

Noting that the first Principle of our Articles of Association enjoins Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales to ‘operate on democratic principles in its organisation and practice, through the participation of its members’, this AGM instructs the Council to prepare a programme to encourage and develop an active and involved membership of the organisation at local, regional and national levels, and to report on progress to the 2018 AGM.

Proposer: Graham Price; Seconder: Viv Davies (formally seconded on the day by Jeremy Gass).

Graham Price explained that the organisation was rather familial in nature, with shared aims despite there being differing aspirations among learners, partner organisation representatives, tutors or support staff. Given reduced collective action within society in general, our learners were not so well versed and experienced in democratic collectivity as they historically had been, and needed the organisation’s support in that aspect of their lives. In the recent past various entities had existed, such as the Voluntary Movement Committee and the Regional Forum Chairs group. These or similar structures should be maintained in order to encourage collective activity amongst the membership. Toni Schiavone supported the motion and its underlining of the importance of the organisation’s democratic traditions. It was key to work on understanding of representation and collectivity, to develop our staff’s skills in that sphere and to strengthen our Regional Forums’ capacity too. In those terms, disagreement within the organisation should be seen as a measure of strength. Sharon Reader replied by talking of the action taken in strengthening the Learner Services Team and in reviewing membership strategy, for which a membership survey was about to appear.

The motion was carried as follows (vote counted by Plickers):

In Favour: 92

Against: 1

Abstention: 1

Motion 2

This AGM, whilst noting the challenges facing adult education, affirms its commitment to a social purpose for Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales with the goal of creating an educated and participative democracy.

Proposer: Jeremy Gass; Seconder: Joe England (formally seconded on the day by Graham Price).

Jeremy Gass spoke of the fact that the institution had been pushed into a largely economic purpose and direction over a number of years because of government

policies, and the intention of this motion was to re-assert a social purpose for adult education. For that to work, there needed to be democratic skills developed, which included using democratic learning techniques. Sonia Reynolds was very supportive of this motion; and Kathryn Robson stated that the concept behind it was well embedded in our values and mission, and that the organisation remained committed to these matters.

The motion was carried as follows:

In Favour: 84

Against: 8

Abstention: 0

Motion 3

(Resolution passed at Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales's North West Wales Regional Forum on Thursday 2 March 2017 by 13 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions.)

This North West Wales Regional Forum notes the decision by Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales to:

- end learning provision at the Coleg Harlech Wern Fawr site at the end of this academic year, after 90 years;*
- continue to explore options for a sustainable, long-term future for the site.*

This Regional Forum urges and recommends the Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales Council to consider this resolution and adopt the following priorities:

- 1. To recognise that the Coleg Harlech estate is a valuable asset to Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales.*
- 2. To ensure that a continuing use is found for the Coleg Harlech Wern Fawr building so that it does not become derelict.*
- 3. To recognise the history of Coleg Harlech in adult education in Wales and honour the intention of the charitable donors who funded the purchase and construction of all of its buildings and estate to support learning opportunities for adults in Harlech.*
- 4. As far as possible to facilitate the continuation of Theatr Arduwly as part of the Wern Fawr building, also built with charitable donations and public subscriptions.*
- 5. To pursue the resolution adopted at the last AGM (2016), namely "to do all within its powers to continue the provision of education on the Harlech site and to expand provision there or elsewhere in the vicinity": for example, to continue digital literacy and Level 3 learning (currently a University of Wales Trinity Saint David Foundation Certificate pre-university course) in the Wern Fawr Library, utilising the Tudor Bowen Jones Legacy capital endowment of £720,000 and other remaining private funds, all of which were donated to Coleg Harlech and its students.*

Proposer: Annie O'Brien; Seconder: Ros McAlister (formally seconded on the day by Nick Taylor).

Ros McAlister spoke of the historic contribution of Coleg Harlech to the cause of adult education in Wales. She was aware of the challenges that existed, but also of the money that had been donated to the institution and that there were local groups and politicians very supportive of the need to maintain an educational presence there. The support shown in the North West Regional Forum's vote the previous month underlined that we should see the site, including the Wern Fawr building, as an asset rather than a liability. This meant that it should not merely be sold to the highest bidder in an auction, nor should it be allowed to become derelict, nor handed over to an unscrupulous developer.

Kathryn Robson stated that the motion had also been supported at the previous week's Council meeting. After investigation of the options, the educational provision was not going to move elsewhere in Gwynedd but to remain in the theatre building in Harlech, through joining forces with Theatr Ardudwy. While the decision had been taken to close Wern Fawr for learning purposes from 31 July, there was much co-working with local groups to ensure that the best outcome for the community would be made of the site. Gerry Jenson said that she and other Council members honoured past contributors to the cause in Harlech, wished to give continuing priority to education there and were conscious of the more general needs in Harlech town.

Marilyn Thomas said she was unsure how to vote on this issue because of a lack of facts and figures about the present situation. Evie Wyn Jones also said that background information was inadequate, including on the feasibility study carried out on the site in Spring 2016. Kathryn Robson said that there was an annual loss of c£100,000 made there which meant that action had to be taken, unfortunately encompassing redundancies. David Elis-Williams pointed out that the feasibility study referred to and conducted by Clear Thinking was available on our web-site. As for the specifics of the library, Nathan Jones noted that plans were in train to catalogue the collection, digitalise some of its contents and share some of the books there for current use elsewhere.

The motion was carried as follows:

**In Favour: 46
Against: 24
Abstention: 19**

Motion 4

We as members of Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales protest in the strongest terms to its Council and to its Acting Chief Executive regarding the proposed closure of Coleg Harlech.

Under the umbrella of the Workers' Educational Association and, of late, Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales, Coleg Harlech has been a beacon of learning for adults throughout Wales and the United Kingdom. Originally established by the trade unions it has offered courses, amongst others, towards nursing degrees, adult teaching qualifications and access to higher education.

We see no valid reason for the closure of such a valuable educational establishment. We call on the Council to open the financial records of Coleg Harlech and provide details of the disposal of assets there over the last 10 years.

We also implore the Council to explore all avenues in an attempt to save this amenity from closure.

Proposer: Ronnie Parry; Seconder: Ffestiniog Learner Forum (Dafydd Eurgain Jones).

Ronnie Parry introduced himself as a former residential student at Coleg Harlech and currently a tutor with Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales. He quoted from a recent mission statement that referred to continuing residential provision, and pointed out that since the merger between CHWEAN and WEA South Wales in 2014 residential courses at the Coleg had been stopped in what appeared to him to be a deliberate policy of managed decline, for which the Hancock Report had cleared the way. He quoted from another student's letter published in 2013 which highlighted the positive impact on disadvantaged students based there. In troubled times, people needed a beacon of hope such as Coleg Harlech had provided in the past to so many who had gone on to make distinguished and distinctive contributions. Instead, opportunities for individuals would be lost under the present proposals, and this human cost was not factored into the affordability equation being employed by the organisation. He felt that the Clear Thinking report's conclusions from early 2016 should be rejected, as the true value of the asset to future students and the local community was not properly considered there. Other possibilities remained, from central/local government funding to Heritage Lottery Fund or Arts Council of Wales money. Had such avenues been pursued, or was the plan (as reported a few months earlier in the media) for a golf-related or similar corporate-minded sabotage of the site? Its symbolic importance should not be squandered, and instead bridges should be built, just as in the Coleg Harlech motto – *Avo penn bid pont*.

David Elis-Williams responded as someone who had family connections with the Coleg Harlech of old, which was rather different from the current version. He now led the Harlech Strategy Group for the Council, and could not support the motion. He avowed that everything had been done to continue residential education on the site, but all evidence went against the practicability of its continuation. 'Changing lives' remained part of the vision of the current organisation too, but the education at Harlech now was purely for local students and most of the building was under-utilised. The intention was not to close Coleg Harlech entirely as it was more than a mere site: we owned the brand and the reputation and therefore the means of using them more widely, without geographical limitation. Commitment to what had been passed at the 2016 AGM remained, and the theatre building and collaboration with Theatr Ardudwy was what remained open to us in those terms the short-term, while we remained flexible for the longer-term. With reference to the motion's wording, a paper had been circulated providing details of the assets which had been

disposed of at Coleg Harlech in 2012-13, when a number of properties, land and other inherited items had been sold in order to keep the institution financially viable. The present organisation's intention was to avoid having to undertake a similar exercise once more.

Kathryn Robson said that if a social enterprise was in place, linked to Theatr Ardudwy, then Wern Fawr could once more be used as a residential site. Jeremy Gass also spoke. His first links with Coleg Harlech went back to 1985, when it was a thriving institution, but the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act had initiated problems with its 'funding unit' concept which significantly reduced Coleg Harlech's income possibilities. A bursary system had maintained residential courses for a while, but the Hancock Report had effectively ended them: thus governmental decisions were what had brought about the demise of Coleg Harlech as it was, not the present or previous legacy bodies represented at the AGM. He therefore felt obliged to vote against the motion.

In his right of reply, Ronnie Parry implored that the other financial options which existed, including the support of philanthropists, should be pursued and be seen to be pursued to maintain the site's heritage to the greatest extent possible.

The motion was lost as follows:

**In Favour: 17
Against: 58
Abstention: 15**

Motion 5

This Annual General Meeting notes:

1. *The uncertainty and discontent expressed at the North West Wales Regional Forum held at Rhosbodruall on 2 March 2017 concerning the future of the Music Technology course in Blaenau Ffestiniog.*
2. *The strong tradition established since 2002 by Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales (and its predecessor bodies) of providing long and short Music Technology courses and other Creative Digital courses not only at Coleg Harlech but also in the community.*
3. *The significant investment that there has been in this field over the years and the resources that are still in our possession.*
4. *The importance, vocational and cultural potential of the music industry/musical culture (and other linked creative industries, including both traditional and new media).*
5. *The huge potential in this field also in terms of well-being, confidence building, second chances for young adults, democratic engagement and contributing to communities.*

Given the above context, this Annual General Meeting calls on Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales to ensure that:

- A. *The situation concerning the provision in Blaenau Ffestiniog is resolved in a constructive manner.*
- B. *A working group is established to develop and co-ordinate an ambitious and*

	<p>leading national curriculum strategy for music technology (and other creative and digitally creative provision).</p> <p>C. An audit of the digitally creative resources which exist in Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales is undertaken, along with an assessment of other community and national resources which could be available for use.</p> <p>D. Significant investment is made in backing this strategy with thought given to mobile resources that could be moved from community to community according to demand with a lead centre for them.</p> <p>E. Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales considers itself and sets itself up as an important part of the musical and creative digital industry and culture in Wales, mapping a network of potential collaborative partners. It is also important to develop a strong part of the provision through the medium of Welsh and to support development of the Welsh language music scene specifically – as well as other languages.</p> <p>Proposer: Fforwm Ddysgwyr Ffestiniog Learner Forum (Dafydd Eurgain Jones); Secunder: Fforwm Ddysgwyr Neuadd Ogwen Learner Forum (Dilwyn Llwyd).</p> <p>Dafydd Eurgain Jones commented on the troubling and uncertain situation relating to the Music Technology course on which he studied, which had prompted the submission of the motion. However, recent discussions had brought an undertaking from Addysg Oedolion Cymru Adult Learning Wales that the future of the course would be reconsidered. On the basis of that he, on behalf of the proposing Learner Forum, was withdrawing the motion.</p> <p>Nathan Jones stated that there had indeed been challenges over the academic year thus far, with particular scrutiny having to be paid to the cost of the course given the comparatively small number of learners on it. A solution had now been found that was acceptable to the learners and tutors involved, namely a move from its previous location at Blaenau Ffestiniog to Harlech, to be linked to a music technology course at Theatr Ardudwy. In terms of the other, broader points in the withdrawn motion, he underlined that the organisation’s management was committed to investigate those further, and he wished to thank the learners and tutors for their forbearance in engaging in this way on such an important matter, thus helping to find a solution.</p> <p><i>(No vote was taken on the motion as it was withdrawn: the proxy votes on it received beforehand therefore became null and void.)</i></p>
9.	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>John Graystone thanked everyone for their input to the event and their participation in the AGM discussions, and the Porth Eirias staff for their welcome and preparations. He wished everyone a pleasant homeward journey.</p>