



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY – CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEDLAETHOL – YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE GLAMORGAN BUILDING, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY, CARDIFF ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

Present:

Sir Emyr Jones Parry *(President)*
Professor David Boucher *(Vice-President)*
Professor Michael Charlton *(Vice President)*
Professor Keith Smith *(Treasurer)*
Professor Alan Shore *(General Secretary)*

Professor Gert Aarts	Professor Mererid Hopwood	Professor Philip Prewett
Professor Arnold Beckmann	Professor Bleddyn Huws	Professor Raluca Radulescu
Professor Richard Bevin	Professor Matthew Jarvis	Professor Nigel Rapport
Professor Emma Cartey	Professor Venkateswarlu	Dr Hugh Rawling
Professor Michael Davies	Kanamarlupudi	Professor Sally Roberts Jones
Professor Russell Davies	Professor Helgard Krause	Sir Paul Silk
Professor Mererid Puw Davies	Professor John Lazarus	Professor Patricia Skinner
Professor Peter Edwards	Professor Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan	Professor Jean Thomas
Professor Sam Evans	Professor Biagio Lucini	Professor Ned Thomas
Professor Hywel Francis	Professor Paul Meredith	Professor Julia Thomas
Professor Sophie Gilliat-Ray	Professor Peter Midmore	Professor Mark Thomas
Professor Katie Gramich	Professor Faron Moller	Professor Terry Threadgold
Professor Alan Guwy	Professor Hywel Morgan	Professor John Tucker
Professor Peter Halligan	Professor Densil Morgan	Professor Meena Upadhyaya
Professor Andrew Henley	Professor W. John Morgan	Professor Colin Williams
Professor Trevor Herbert	Professor Bernhard Moser	Professor Catrin Williams
Professor Deirdre Hine	Professor Helen Nicholson	Dr Lynn Williams
Professor Karen Holford	Professor John Wyn Owen	Professor Susan Wong
Professor Julian Hopkin	Professor Julian Preece	

In attendance:

Mr Martin Pollard *(Chief Executive)*
Dr Sarah Morse *(Senior Executive Officer)*
Mrs Amanda Kirk *(Clerk to Council)*
Ms Ruby Moore *(Communications and Engagement Officer)*
Mrs Fiona Gaskell *(Fellowship Assistant)*
Ms Catrin Beard *(Translator)*
Mr Simon Gough *(Photographer)*

The Annual General Meeting opened at 3.45 p.m.

1. **Welcome and Introduction by the Society's President**

The President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry:

- 1.1 welcomed Fellows present, in particular newly-elected Fellows, to the Society's Ninth Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending;
- 1.2 advised Fellows that they were welcome to address the meeting in Welsh or English;
- 1.3 expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and staff of Cardiff University for enabling the Annual General Meeting to be held at the University.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were noted and would be listed as an appendix to the minutes of the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 May 2018**

Members **RECEIVED**, **NOTED** and **RESOLVED TO APPROVE** the Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 23 May 2018, which were signed by the President at the end of the meeting.

4. **Governance Matter**

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/01, Governance Matters.

The President noted that the governing instruments in the form of the Royal Charter and bye-laws and the Society's Regulations could be found on the Society's website (www.learnedsociety.wales/about-us/governance) or requested in paper format from the Society's Clerk.

The President noted that Dr Sally Davies and Professor Ieuan Hughes had been elected by their Council colleagues to represent the Council on the Fellowship Committee from the end of the 22 May 2019 Annual General Meeting to the end of the May 2022 Annual General Meeting.

The President noted that Professor Helen Fulton had been elected by Council colleagues to represent the Council on the Elections, Nominations and Appointments Committee from the end of the 22 May 2019 Annual General Meeting to the end of the May 2022 Annual General Meeting.

The President welcomed them and thank them for agreeing to serve.

5. **Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18**

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/02 and the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18 (being the Society's eight accounting period). These were introduced by the Society's Treasurer. Notice had been provided to Fellows that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18 were available to download from the Society's website.

It was **NOTED FURTHER** that:

- The Accounts show that all but £4,000 of the Society's total incoming resources (£305,510) for the accounting period fell into the category of unrestricted funds. The Balance Sheet shows net assets amounting to £378,658 at the end of the period.
- The Treasurer noted that the Society had recorded a small surplus in 2017-18, due to staff changes during the year.
- The Treasurer noted the continued generous support from the universities who were the Society's largest source of unrestricted income.
- The Treasurer reminded Fellows that they were the second largest source of Society funding and highlighted the benefits of Gift Aid; he asked Fellows to consider gift aiding their subscription if they did not already do so.
- There was a need to diversify income streams, with different types of fundraising work having begun in the past 6 months.

The President thanked the Treasurer and members of the Finance Committee for their careful stewardship of the Society's resources.

The President invited comments from Fellows on the Treasurer's report. None were received.

Members **RESOLVED FORMALLY TO RECEIVE** the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18.

Appointment of Auditors

Members **NOTED** that in previous years PricewaterhouseCoopers had generously audited the Society's accounts on a pro bono basis while auditing the University of Wales. Following the merger of the University of Wales and University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the service from PwC was no longer available. Staff were in discussion about alternative pro bono arrangements, and were investigating other options in the event that this service was no longer provided.

Fellows were invited to consider any sources who may be able to provide pro bono services to the Society and to notify the Treasurer or staff.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept that in these circumstances the Council should appoint an auditor in due course.

6. Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/03, the Strategic Plan.

The President invited the Chief Executive to introduce the paper. Martin Pollard presented details of the Society's five year plan, which is intended to guide all of its activities and developments for the future. A copy of the presentation can be found here [insert link]

A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

The President invited comments from Fellows.

Dr Robin Gwyndaf addressed the AGM and thanked members for the opportunity to be present. He suggested that the Society should give preference to the Welsh language in all correspondence.

The President reminded Fellows that the Society gave equal treatment to both languages.

7. **Activities and developments since the last Annual General Meeting**

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/04, a report on activities and developments since the last Annual General Meeting held on 23 May 2018.

In accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, the President invited the General Secretary, to introduce the report.

Professor Shore reiterated the context and purpose of the Society and drew attention to all sections of the Report:

- **Change.** The Society had seen a great deal of change throughout the year and welcomed three new staff members – Martin Pollard (Chief Executive), Ruby Moore (Communications and Engagement Officer) and Fiona Gaskell (Fellowship Assistant). The General Secretary noted the departure of Phil Jones who had left the Society in January 2019. The General Secretary extended his thanks to all the staff for ensuring the smooth running of the Society throughout the period of change.

Another change had been the appointment of Society representatives at individual institutions throughout Wales. Professor Shore thanked the following for agreeing to work with the Society: Yr Athro Iwan Morus, Dr Robin Chapman, Professor Alma Harris, Professor Simon Hands, Professor Trevor Herbert, Professor Diana Huffaker, Professor Gillian Bristow, Professor Claire Gorrara, Dr Catrin Williams, Professor Helen Wilcox and Professor Diana Wallace.

- **Promoting Learning and Debate.** Professor Shore noted the success delivery of the Our Future Health lecture series and the tireless work of Professor John Wyn Owen who continued to represent the Society in developing a One Health agenda for Wales.

Professor David Boucher had organised the Society's Cambridge Symposium on the Ethics of Sustainable Prosperity, including organising the funding of the event.

Phil Jones had organised and delivered a pilot schools engagement programme and had paved the way to broaden representation and promote further work with schools.

- **Future Events.** Professor Shore advised the Fellows that the Society had been involved in the organisation of the Congress of Celtic Studies, in Bangor in June 2019.

It was noted that the Society had hosted a lecture at the National Eisteddfod annually and the theme alternated between science and arts. This year the Society were collaborating with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, the first time that the Society would have this type of presence on the Maes. Fellows were encouraged to get involved and support the Society.

- **Wales Studies.** The General Secretary invited Professor David Boucher to give Fellows an update on the work he was doing with Professor Wynn Thomas and Dr Sarah Morse.

Professor Boucher noted that a pan discipline group had been established to bring together information about all research that was being carried out about Wales. The group focused on both established and early career research, and was planning to create a Wales Studies booklet with an autumn launch in the Senedd. There would also be a research poster competition with a £500 prize.

Professor Boucher noted that anyone who had an interest in joining the group should contact Dr Sarah Morse.

The President thanked the General Secretary and Professor Boucher for their presentation and valuable contribution to the Society's work and invited Fellows to comment on any of the matters raised.

It was noted that the Wales Studies group was interested in research about Wales regardless of where in the world it was conducted.

The Fellowship were advised that in the long term, the Society hoped to have its own separate presence at the National Eisteddfod. However, it was important not to commit to doing more than the Society was able in the first instance. Support from within the Fellowship was key to the success of such events and all Fellows were encouraged to attend and get involved.

The President noted that in terms of outreach, he hoped that the broad range of expertise available within the Fellowship would encourage schools to collaborate with the Society to support students and inspire progression to higher education.

Professor Wynn Thomas noted two important events that the Society may wish to celebrate. The first was the 100th anniversary of the first Chair in International Politics at Aberystwyth University; the second was the publication of *The Cambridge History of Welsh Literature*, the first comprehensive publication of its type.

The President noted that Aberystwyth University had organised a series of events to mark the centenary, and that the Society had organised for a launch of the *Cambridge History* to be hosted in the Senedd by Elin Jones AM.

8. Fellowship Matters

The president called upon Professor Michael Charlton to introduce the paper on Fellowship Matters.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/05,

Professor Charlton noted that the total number of Fellows was 540 and not 544 as stated in the paper. It was highlighted that there was still a need to improve the number of women admitted to the Fellowship.

Professor Charlton thanked the Society staff for all their work to organise and deliver the Fellowship election, particularly when faced with the departure of Phil Jones and the added responsibilities that were undertaken.

It was noted with sadness and regret that the Society had to mark the passing of the following Fellows since the last AGM:

Sir Michael Atiyah, Professor Roger Ainsworth, Y Parchedig Owen E. Evans, Professor Christopher Hooley, Y Parchedig Athro Gwilym H. Jones, Professor Ieuan Gwynedd Jones, Professor Haydn Mason, Professor Andrew Pelter, Professor Paul O'Brien, Professor Meic Stephens

Fellows were invited to stand for a moment's silence as a mark of respect.

The President thanked Professor Charlton.

9. Election of new Fellows, 2019/20 and the Formal Welcome and Introduction of Fellows

The president called upon Professor Alan Shore to introduce this part of the meeting.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** paper AGM/2019/06 which outlined the process with regard to the formal welcome and introduction of Fellows.

Professor Shore called each of the new Fellows in turn. The President formally welcomed each to the Society, addressing them in the following words:

'In the name and by the authority of The Learned Society of Wales, I admit you as Fellows thereof'.

Each Fellow who had been welcomed into the Fellowship signed the Roll of Fellows, affirming that, as a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales:

'I undertake to do all within my power to uphold the purposes and good name of the Society'.

10. Annual Address by the President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry

Sir Emyr Jones Parry presented to Fellows his annual address, the text of which would be made available on the Publications page of the Society's website.

The AGM concluded at 5.25 p.m.

AGM 22 May 2019 apologies formally received by:

Professor Mansel Aylwood, Professor Cara Aitchison, Professor Peter Atkinson, Professor Davide Bonifazi, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Dame Hilary Boulding, Professor Alan T Bull, Professor Anthony K Campbell, Professor Ruth Chadwick, Professor Robin Chapman, Professor Simon Cox, Professor Ceri Davies, Professor Douglas Davies, Professor Sioned Davies, Professor Nancy Edwards, Professor Menna Elfyn, Professor Howard Evans, Professor Steve Evans, Professor Baroness Ilora Finlay, Professor Tony Ford, Professor Helen Fulton, Professor Maria Goddard, Professor Claire Gorrara, Professor Keith Harding, Professor John Hartley, Professor Ann Heilmann, Professor David Herbert, Professor Diana Huffaker, Professor Ieuan Hughes, Professor Graham Hutchins, Professor Christine James, Professor Angela John, Professor Ann John, Professor Hywel (Ceri) Jones, Professor Mari C Jones, Professor Trevor M Jones, Professor Simon Jones, Professor Peter Knowles, Professor Andrew Lever, Lord Lisvane, Professor Keith Lloyd, Professor Malcolm Mason, Y Gwir Bachedig Dr Barry Morgan, Professor Robin Okey, Professor Sir Stephen O’Rahilly, Professor Ann Parry Owen, Professor Stuart Palmer, Professor Judith Phillips, Professor Eleri Pryse, Professor Richard Rathbone, Professor Sian Reynolds, Professor Keith Robbins, Professor Ceridwen Roberts, Professor Gareth Roberts, Professor Phillip Schofield, Professor Mike Scott, Professor Jonathan Shepherd, Professor Frank Sengpiel, Professor Elan Closs Stephens, Professor Geoffrey Thomas, Professor Hywel Thomas, Professor Lord John Thomas, Professor Johanna Waters, Professor Andrew Weightman, Professor Helen Wilcox, Professor Geraint Williams, Professor Howard Williams, Professor Robin Williams, Professor Stuart Woodhead