

# Annual General Meeting

12 November 2008  
University of Manchester



## MINUTES

### Present

Peter Halfpenny [PH] (in the Chair)

Geoff Nichols; Pete Alcock; Bernard Clark; Louise Cole; Gary Craig; Debbie Ellen; Angela Ellis Paine; Chris Elton; Graham Gardener; Roy Greehalgh; Jon Griffith; Denise Hayward; Helen Harper; Mike Hemmings; Ann Hindley; Christine Irvine; Veronique Jochum; Rob Macmillan; Gareth Morgan; Susanne Martikke; Thomas Moore; John Mohan; Jill Mordaunt; Nick Ockenden; Cathy Pharoah; Kristen Reid; Christine Reilly; Roberta Roberts; Colin Rochester; Duncan Scott; Andri Soteri-Proctor; Joanna Stuart; Hilary Talbot; Simon Teasdale; Mike Woolvin

### Apologies

Julia Burdett; Chris Cornforth; Jenny Harrow; Patricia Jones; Meta Zimmeck

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#### 1. Welcome and apologies

As above

#### 2. Minutes of the fourth AGM, held on the 28.11.2007

Approved

#### 3. Chair's remarks

Peter Halfpenny reported on achievements since the previous AGM:

- (1) **Membership:** As of 31 July 2008 VSSN had 130 individual members.
- (2) **Email discussion list:** Jill Mordaunt was thanked for her ongoing moderation of the discussion list. The list now has 380 subscribers and provides a forum for the exchange of information and lively debate.
- (3) **Website:** Despite recent problems with the hosting service, VSSN's website is well used and its content continues to develop. Nick Plant and Veronique Jochum were thanked for their work on the website.
- (4) **Executive officer (EO):** The EO role is successfully helping to increase VSSN membership and service members needs. Felix Mussel had performed the role for most of the year; he had recently been replaced by Louise Cole in a smooth transition.
- (5) **Annual research conference:** The annual VSSN/NCVO voluntary sector research conference was well attended with over 140 delegates, and over 50 papers in around 20 sessions.
- (6) **Day conferences:** Colleagues at the University of Birmingham and the University of the West of England kindly hosted day seminars over the

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**VSSN Office**, Room B.010 Eddie Newcomb Student Services Centre,  
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year, both of which drew over 40 attendees.

- (7) **Steering group:** Beyond the activities listed above and below, the steering group has been involved in making changes to the constitution to provide for more continuity in SG membership and developing relationships with key partners such as the ESRC.
- (8) **Journal:** Discussions are continuing with The Policy Press about the establishment of a third sector research journal as a VSSN membership benefit. This would lead to an increase in membership fees, and some concern was expressed at the meeting about the proposed large increase in fees payable by high income earners.

#### 4. **Receipt of annual report and accounts**

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08 have been formally approved by the Steering Group and they are available to download from the VSSN website.

**Reported:** VSSN currently has a healthy level of reserves.

#### 5. **Membership report**

VSSN currently has 117 members, 90 of them are individual members. Last year, approximately 25 people's membership lapsed.

#### 6. **Election of steering group members**

Thirteen nominations had been received for nine elected places. The results of the election held in November 2008 were tallied by an independent teller (Louise Cole) and were formally announced by the Chair. Members elected to the Steering Group, with their terms of office, are as follows:

- Pete Alcock - 2 years
- Mary Corcoran - 2 year
- Chris Cornforth - 2 years
- Angela Ellis Paine -3 years
- Peter Halfpenny - 1 year
- Veronique Jochum - 1 year
- Rob Macmillan - 1 year
- Cathy Pharoah - 3 years
- Colin Rochester - 3 years

#### 7. **AOB**

**Peter Halfpenny** welcomed the formation of two new research centres (TSRC and CCGAP) while acknowledging that the processes through which they were established had led to a certain amount of competition across the Network and the subsequent need to re-build collegiality between members. The independences of VSSN from the centres was stressed, alongside an acknowledgement of the importance of working with them, as with all institutions engaged in voluntary sector studies. Representatives from both centres expressed their commitment to VSSN.