

Annual General Meeting

2 December 2009, 12:25-13:00
Network House, Birmingham



MINUTES

Present

Peter Halfpenny [PH] (in the Chair)

Nick Acheson; Mike Aiken; Pete Alcock; Jane Andrews; Peter Backus; Angela Benson; Julie Charlesworth; David Clifford; Bryan Collis; Chris Cornforth; Gary Craig; Gregory Crouch; Chris Dayson; Rebecca Edwards; Angela Ellis Paine; Lisa Faulkner; Dina Gojkovic; Roy Greenhalgh; Margaret Harris; Mike Hemmings; Veronique Jochum; Rob Macmillan; Tom McKenzie; Lindsey Metcalf; John Mohan; Domenico Moro; Pauline Munro; Geoff Nichols; Cathy Pharoah; Rita Ralston; Paul Robson; Anna Rowan; Alasdair Rutherford; Andrew Scott; Duncan Scott; Andri Soteri-Proctor; Simon Teasdale; Amanda Vickers; Karl Wilding; Fiona Zinovieff
(43 attendees, 32 of whom were VSSN members eligible to vote)

Apologies

Mary Corcoran; Jon Griffith; Nick Plant; Colin Rochester; Meta Zimmeck

1.	Welcome and apologies
	As above
2.	Minutes of the fifth AGM, held on the 12.11.2008
	Approved
3.	Chair's remarks
	<p>Peter Halfpenny reported on achievements since the previous AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Overall: It has been another successful year for VSSN, with lots of developments(2) Membership: Membership has been growing steadily.(3) Research conference: The partnership with NCVO continues to prosper, with the fifth VSSN/NCVO Annual Research Conference bringing together over 100 delegates for an excellent two day event.(4) Day conferences: Two successful day conferences were held, in Manchester and Belfast. The Steering Group are grateful to colleagues who hosted these events.(5) Email discussion list: There are over 430 members of the active e-discussion list.(6) E-services: The enhancement strategy for VSSN e-services is unfolding, with plans afoot to redevelop the website. The contributions of Nick Plant and Veronique Jochum in facilitating these developments were noted.(7) Finances: VSSN's finances are sound, with reserves in line with VSSN's policy.(8) Online members' research directory: A new research directory for members has been launched online and is proving popular, with a high proportion of members signing up.

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	<p>(9) Voluntary Sector Review journal: The first issue of the Journal has gone to press and is due to be published in March 2010. Subscription to the journal is included in the membership fee, which is banded by income.</p>
4.	<p>Receipt of annual report and accounts</p>
	<p>The Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/09 have been formally approved by the Steering Group and they are available to view on the VSSN website.</p> <p>Particular reference was made to the input of several VSSN members over the year. Thanks was passed on from the VSSN Steering Group to: Jill Mordaunt for her ongoing role in moderating the e-discussion list; Joanna Stuart for her role in coordinating the New Researcher network; Gareth Morgan for his assistance with constitutional amendments and accounts; and to Robert Dalziel for his role in developing the course directory. Thanks were also passed on to Nick Plant for his ongoing role with the development of VSSN's e-services. Special recognition was given to Peter Halfpenny who has come to the end of his term of office as Chair of VSSN. Peter has expertly guided VSSN over the past six years or so and has made a tremendous contribution to the organization.</p> <p>The VSSN Treasurer, Cathy Pharoah, added a word of caution with regard to VSSN's future financial situation, given financial commitments related to the journal and web developments.</p>
5.	<p>Membership report</p>
	<p>As of 31 July 2009 (the end of the reporting period) VSSN had 115 individual members and 12 organisational members (together representing 48 individuals). The membership has grown over the past year, although figures will have to be monitored carefully with the introduction of the Voluntary Sector Review journal and subsequent increase in membership fees.</p>
6.	<p>Constitutional amendments (see paper for full details)</p> <p>Four constitutional amendments were proposed, and each was accepted unanimously (each receiving 32 votes for, 0 against, with 0 abstentions). In summary, the changes covered the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring <i>Voluntary Sector Review</i> is accountable to VSSN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – VSR Editorial Management Group a sub-committee of Steering Group – VSR Editorial Management Group elected by VSSN membership – VSR editor ex officio member of Steering Group (Amendment 1) – Steering Group appoint one member of Editorial Management Group • The option to use lots to determine period of office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – avoid election if number of candidates is the same as the number of vacancies (Amendment 2) • The removal of a redundant clause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – election procedure to introduce rotation on Steering Group (Amendment 3) • Sub-committees to require two (rather than three) steering group members on each committee

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	<p align="center">– At least two members of each Sub-Committee to be members of the Steering Group (Amendment 4)</p>
7.	<p>Election of steering group members An uncontested election resulted in the following VSSN members joining the Steering Group, for the following terms of office (determined by drawing lots):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Aiken (3 years, to 2012) • Robert Dalziel (3 years, to 2012) • Veronique Jochum (2 years, to 2011) • Andri Soteri Proctor (3 years, to 2012) <p>Continuing members (and their remaining terms of office) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Alcock (1 year, 2010) • Mary Corcoran (1 year, to 2010) • Chris Cornforth (1 year, to 2010) • Cathy Pharoah (2 years, to 2011) • Colin Rochester (2 years, 2011) <p>Thanks were passed on to retiring members: Rob Macmillan, Angela Ellis Paine, Nick Plant, Peter Halfpenny. Nick Plant will continue his involvement in the Steering Group through the honorary role of VSSN E-services Advisor.</p>
8.	<p>Election of Voluntary Sector Review Editorial Management Board Seven nominations were received for six elected places. The results of the election held in November 2009 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pete Alcock - 2 years (2011) (tie with Cathy Pharoah decided by lots) • Margaret Harris - 3 years (2012) • Rob Macmillan - 2 years (2011) • John Mohan - 1 year (2010) • Gareth Morgan - 1 year (2010) • Cathy Pharoah - 3 years (2012) <p>The ongoing Editorial Team, which shall continue throughout the duration of the first two volumes of the Journal, is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Halfpenny (Editor) • Cathy Pharoah (Assistant Editor) • Pete Alcock (Assistant Editor) • Colin Rochester (Practice Editor) • Chris Cornforth (Policy Editor) • Julie Charlesworth (Policy Editor)
9.	<p>AOB None</p>