



Minutes of War on Want (WoW) AGM, August 2 2024, 1pm **held remotely via Zoom only**

Council members in attendance: Roger McKenzie (Chair), Alia Al Ghussain (Vice-Chair) Esther Giles (Treasurer), Mark Luetchford, Steve Davies, Norina O'Hare, Shaben Begum, Mike Cushman

Members: Tony Conway, Neville Hamilton, Vicky Grandon, Guy Simmons, John Hale, Simon Roberts, Vicky Roebuck, Ryvka Barnard, Tony McMullan, Heather Pomroy, John Selby, Gareth Glynn, John Selby, Adeniyi Adebawale, Steve Roman, Vicky Grandon, Felicity De Motta, Marylyn Rayner

Staff members in attendance: Asad Rehman, Tyrone Scott, David Rudkin, Gayatri Dev, Jackie Simpkins, Liz McKean, Seb Munoz, Lisa Khaydari, Martin Dale, Tash Allan (minutes)

I. Chairs Welcome and Introduction

Roger welcomed Members and Trustees to the 2024 AGM and explained that he would be chairing the meeting, and that the meeting would be recorded. Roger opened by thanking the Trustees and the Staff for their work throughout the last year. The meeting then ran through housekeeping for the meeting and asked for everyone to be respectful of one another. Roger then highlighted the work that WoW engages in and noted how it makes a real difference in ensuring that voices are lifted and delivering real change to real people. He noted that this work would not be possible without the support of the Members, Trustees and Staff. Roger then went onto introduce the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the other Trustees in attendance. Liz then talked through the voting process for the resolutions and explained how to vote on the resolutions within Zoom.

2. Executive Directors Report

Asad, WoW's Executive Director, highlighted that WoW's work is starting to bear fruit, particularly in the areas of the global green new deal (GGND) and equitable transitions. He noted that WoW does not shy away from long and hard fights and noted the passion from our Members, Staff and Trustees to act on these demands to for change. Asad thanked all those involved and stressed that WoW only exists due to the ongoing commitment.

3. Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 26 May 2023, were APPROVED.

Votes For: 14

Votes Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Minutes approved.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the 2023 minutes.

5. Audited Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2023 - Presented by Esther Giles (Treasurer)

Esther noted that we are looking back at the accounts for the financial year from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 which have been audited by Moore Kingston Smith. Overall, the figures show that WoW's financial position has been fair with cash and short-term deposits at the end of the year standing at £3,580,698 which is an increase from £2,403,040 at the start of the year. Esther noted that the increase in cash position is due to the receipt of a large generous legacy donation. Esther continued to go through the detail of the accounts in terms of the position on regular committed donations (£562,742), appeals and donations (£202,875), legacies left to WoW (£430,926) and other trading income (£15,121). Esther closed concluding that as at 31st March 2023, WoW's total unrestricted funds stood at £1,864,366 and that this is over the recommended upper limit in the current reserves policies of £1,300,000 and this has been done to provide an additional margin of resilience to cope with the economic impact of cost-of-living crisis.

6. Questions and Answers

The chair then opened the floor to any questions.

Gareth Glynn raised a question about WoW's involvement in joint campaigns and whether there has been any learning or inspiration coming out of that or going forward? The response to this was that WoW is stronger when working together with other organisations so WoW puts a lot of effort into relationship and coalition building (i.e. with PSC) and other work behind the scenes (i.e. with Palestine Platform) as there are more opportunities to share discourse and narratives and to demonstrate solidarity.

Neville Hamilton commented on the fact that our democracy almost allowed to ban the call for BDS. Asad responded and commented that this should be seen within the wider context of additional calls to restrict the right to strike and on civil movements. Asad commented that a lot of the work WoW tried to do was to network and create understanding of how this impacted our fundamental human rights and was a huge victory that were able to slow down and stop the attempt to put an anti BDS bill into effect. Additionally, there has been a considerable amount of learning post ICJ ruling and WoW is prioritising their involvement in this work.

Heather Pomroy queried the £500k being made available for investment and wondered whether more should be spent on campaigning and what WoW invests in? Esther responded to this and noted that the Trustees made this decision in order to invest in WoW's future and to increase outreach and effectiveness with the overall goal of growing the membership. Asad confirmed that WoW's objective is to continue to grow as an organisation and the stronger the organisation grows the better WoW can strategically resource our partners.

7. Ordinary business

The meeting then moved to the business part of the AGM. The meeting noted that as Resolutions 3 & 4 are constitutional amendments, they require a 75% majority to pass.

- Resolution 1 – **Annual Report & Accounts** - To receive and adopt War on Want's Annual Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2023, together with the last directors' report and auditors' report on those accounts.

Votes For: 129

Votes Against: 0

Abstain: 4

Resolution carried.

- Resolution 2 – **Appointment of Auditors** - To reappoint Kingston Smith as auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting to the conclusion of the next meeting at which the accounts are laid before War on Want, at a remuneration to be determined by the Council of Management.

Votes For: 127

Votes Against: 3

Abstain: 4

Resolution carried.

- Resolution 3 – **Mandatory Updates to Articles of Association** - To update War on Want's Articles of Association to ensure compliance with charitable regulations. The new Articles of Association will supersede all previous versions.

Votes For: 134

Votes Against: 0

Abstain: 4

Resolution carried at a 97% majority.

- Resolution 4 – **Revised Memorandum of Association** - To revise the War on Want Memorandum of Association to reflect the above updates to the Articles of Association.

Votes For: 128

Votes Against: 2

Abstain: 4

Resolution carried at a 95% majority.

There were no emergency resolutions received.

8. ‘& Still We Rise’ Festival and Global Convergence Presentation

Seb Munoz and Tyrone Scott gave a presentation noting the key highlights of the Festival and Convergence held in February 2024.

9. Chair’s closing remarks

Roger paid thanks to all War on Want Staff and to Trustees. Roger noted that he and Anna Stone were both standing down from the Council of Management (CoM) as they have both served their two terms as Trustees. Roger shared his highlights of being trusted as Chair and ended noting that as we are living in a world in such crisis, organisations such as War on Want who stand up for working people, poverty and those who don’t have a voice are much needed. Lastly, Alia moved a vote of thanks to Roger as Chair and Anna as a member of the CoM & FRC.