

**CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE HALL FOR CORNWALL ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2023**

**OPENING OF THE MORNING SESSION:** Members and Board of Trustees stood for the singing of Jerusalem. Pam Selley (Vice-Chair) accompanied the Right Worshipful Mayor of Truro, Cllr Carol Swain on to the stage.

**CIVIC WELCOME:** Cllr Swain addressed the members welcoming all those present to the Hall for Cornwall. She spoke of how much she was looking forward to the meeting, and that the rousing singing of Jerusalem had reminded her of her days teaching in a secondary school in Manchester. Cllr Swain was accompanied by the Mayoress Ms Sarah Douglas-Martin who had been a close friend for many years. Cllr Swain stated that in this multicultural world the WI was a safe place for women, and how she was honoured that the Cornwall Federation had invited her to open the proceedings. Jane Dover (Vice-Chair) thanked Cllr Swain.

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES BY THE CHAIR TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS:** Helen Kestle (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, and advised apologies had been received from Annabel John, Margaret Johnson, Wendy Fiander, David Chapman, Tom Shelley, Pippa Stilwell, Julia Havard, Pat Mallett, Roz Ross, Deborah Brooks, Amanda Penk, Josh Stevens, Catherine Lloyd, Chris Riddle, and the Somerset, Dorset and Gwent Federations.

**ADOPTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS:** Helen Kestle (Chair) proposed the Adoption of the Standing Orders, and this was seconded by Dawn Brown of St Agnes WI. All were in favour.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING:** Helen Kestle (Chair) proposed the Adoption of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Council Meeting, and this was seconded by Madge Mitchell of Sticker WI. All were in favour.

**REPORT BY FEDERATION TREASURER:** Rachel Andrews (Treasurer) advised the 2022 accounts reflected a slow return to the pre-pandemic levels of activity. Income from members and trading activities was up on 2021 but still significantly below that of 2019. The final deficit in 2022 was £19,000, better than the £34,000 that had been budgeted for. Donations were still needed to help with the running costs of Chy Noweth. The Community Payback service had continued to support us with maintaining the building at no charge for labour. Following an appeal for donations towards the Royal Cornwall Show in 2023, £400 in total had been received, but the event still resulted in a loss of £500. Rachel Andrews appealed for members to support CFWI at the Royal Cornwall Show in 2024 by volunteering or attending on the day. Thanks were given to all staff, Sue Martin and Gareth Williams, and to Sub-Committees for their work in raising funds.

**QUESTIONS TO THE FEDERATION TREASURER**

Anne Fenwick of Lerryn WI asked if the shortfall of funds was due to WIs closing, Rachel Andrews advised this had been taken into account but there were several factors involved.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Rachel Andrews (Treasurer) proposed the Adoption of the 2022 Financial Statements, and this was seconded by Patricia Pilkington of Falmouth WI. All were in favour.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 BUDGET:** Rachel Andrews (Treasurer) presented the budget for 2024 sent out in the delegates pack to those present. Income was hoped to increase from Membership Fees and Members Activities, Room Hire and Car Parking, but overheads were also anticipated to increase, so a loss in the region of £34,000 was budgeted for.

**ADOPTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET:** Rachel Andrews (Treasurer) proposed the Adoption of the 2024 Budget, and was seconded by Kerry Beats of Wilcove WI. All were in favour.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANTS FOR 2023 - 2024:** Rachel Andrews (Treasurer) proposed the appointment of RRL as Federation accountants, and was seconded by Linda Lingard of Beaches and Cream, Newquay WI. All were in favour.

**APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS:** Grace Bradford (Trustee) proposed that Gareth Williams be the Teller in the forthcoming elections, and was seconded by Jacky Meyers of Madron WI. All were in favour.

**FEDERATION CHAIR'S ADDRESS:** Helen Kestle (Chair) spoke of the good news of the recent formation of two new WIs, CyberCats Virtual WI and Carew Belles WI, and there were two more WIs soon to be formed. WI Membership was hoped to reach 3000 in the coming months. Helen Kestle was looking forward to the CFWI holiday to the Cotswolds, and advised there were plans for a WI camping weekend in 2024. The message to members was about making connections with other members, and the benefits which come from these such as sharing ideas, offering support and being there for each other. The reintroduction of the WI Group System was being considered which would give an opportunity to connect with other WIs. Helen Kestle closed her address by asking members talk to another member during the lunch break and make a connection, as this was what the WI was all about.

**GUEST SPEAKER – COLONEL E T BOLITHO OBE:** Colonel Bolitho was introduced by Pam Selley, Vice-Chair, and gave an entertaining and informative talk entitled “A Funeral, A Coronation and working for the Monarchy”. Photographs were shown to illustrate his talk and members enjoyed gaining an insight on his role as Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. A short questions and answer session followed. Margaret Edgcumbe (Trustee) thanked Colonel Bolitho for his address.

**OCTOBER 200+ CLUB DRAW:** Helen Kestle (Chair) and Julia Pascoe (Federation Secretary) drew the winning number 111, which was held by Sue Martin of Stithians WI.

#### **CLOSE OF MORNING SESSION**

#### **OPENING OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION BY HELEN KESTLE (CHAIR)**

#### **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS BY COLONEL E T BOLITHO OBE**

**BLAIKLEY SALVER COMPETITION WINNING POEM** by Cora Woodside of Fowey WI

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE NEWS**

**GUEST SPEAKER – LESLEY SMITH – QUEEN ELIZABETH I:** Introduced by Liz Baker (Trustee). Lesley Smith, historian and curator of Tutbury Castle, Staffordshire gave members a spell-binding performance in the character of Queen Elizabeth I. Members then enjoyed a question and answer session with Lesley which followed. Mary Thompson (Trustee) thanked Lesley Smith for her performance.

**RAFFLE DRAW** by Lesley Smith and Helen Kestle (Chair)

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS BY THE FEDERATION CHAIR** Helen Kestle (Chair)

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO FEDERATION CHAIRMAN** by Dot Rogers (Cookery and Craft Sub-Committee)

#### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

#### **CLOSE OF MEETING**