

ACC Board Meeting Thursday 25th January 2024

Venue: Zoom

(Meeting commenced 13.30)

	Title
	<p>Opening: CW – spoke on community and noted it was the week of prayer for Christian unity and read Ephesians 1:18-21. CW then led in prayer.</p> <p>In attendance: Sue Monckton-Rickett, Chair (SMR); Chris Williams, Deputy Chair (CW); Tony Ruddle (TR); Peter Roberts (PR); Leroy Harley (LH); Wein Fung (WF); Christine Pinder (CP); Phil Martin (PM). Kathy Spooner (KS);</p> <p>Apologies: Gathoni Hamilton-Foster (GHF) and Sharon Hastings (SH). Sean Charlesworth (SC) and Peter Barraclough (PB) and Janet McNish (JMN); continue to be on accepted absence.</p>
1.	<p>Minutes of the 14th December</p> <p>The minutes were approved with one minor change of ‘capital’ to ‘income’.</p> <p>Matters Arising: ID Checks for Registrant’s. KS reported that until more work had been carried out with regard to how records are deleted this action should be put on hold. The Board agreed this delay.</p> <p>SMR reported that we had submitted our views on fee structure to PSA.</p> <p>CW reported that a doodle pool for an MOU meeting was circulating but no decision agenda yet on made.</p> <p>A meeting had been held with a member in response to the “Exploring Whiteness’ forum, and as a result there may be more engagement with him and potential involvement with Ethnic Tapestry and an Accord Article.</p> <p>AOB: None submitted</p>
2.	<p>Standing items</p> <p>Conflict of Interest: - Some Board members still needing to complete the 2024 submission. No new declarations for today’s agenda.</p> <p>RAP/PSA – covered under CEO report.</p> <p>Diversity & Inclusion - Ethnic Tapestry meeting tomorrow. KS reported on conversations regarding the Terms of Reference for the coalition on inclusion and anti-oppressive practice chaired by PlacetoBe. The scope of the coalition ‘commitment to anti-oppressive practice’ was discussed at the meeting, with a strong argument made from some members, that this meant that the coalition and its members should speak out about oppression, for example the events in Israel and Gaza. KS had represented ACC view that we do not make political. The Board thanked KS for making our views clear.</p> <p>There was a discussion concerning the Scottish Government’s consultation on conversion therapy.</p> <p>SMR asked if we should spend time in a Board meeting reviewing the Scottish consultation document on Conversion Therapy and it was agreed to do this by members of the Board reading and feeding in comments in advance of the next meeting.</p> <p>TR mentioned that “At a Loss” on their Bereavement Journey specifically mentioned the helpful support of ACC to be a resource for the counsellor advisors to the groups that run the course.</p>

	<p>CEO REPORT</p> <p>Climate Minds (approval for their terms of reference) The board approved the Climate change consensus statement with its amendments and additions. ACC will consider the commitments during 2024.</p> <p>2024 Objectives and Reporting</p> <p>KS shared the priorities in the document provided and implications of improvement and resolution..</p> <p>The Board acknowledged in a number of ways the workload and stress of managing the growth and reputation of ACC is as a result of the hard work of KS and the team. The board expressed their gratitude to all the team and continue to consider the need to support the reduction of pressure on each area of activity.</p> <p>EDI Statement Changes - KS reported minor change of the removal of some wording.</p> <p>KS reported initially on a meeting held with an ACC Counselling Affiliate and representatives from ACC to share insights and perspectives on different aspects of counselling and pastoral care issues and how they can be provided in safe and boundaried ways. It was suggested we might explore with them by finding a small team to work with them. It was suggested that contact could be made with others providing similar services.</p> <p>Also mentioned in the report were:</p> <p>National Conference; Membership Services Update; Communication and Training; Website and Database Development</p>
4.	<p>Chair Report</p> <p>Complaints Update - presented by SMR detailing no new complaints and no appeals lodged.</p> <p>ICO - further contact reported to which ACC had responded appropriately with no actions required.</p> <p>Articles of Association - Initial legal advice had been obtained. Any changes would need to be approved at a General Meeting of Members. SMR is seeking quotes for legal work and also exploring another possibility of using the Charity Law Association / Charity Commission templates, which could be adapted internally and then legally reviewed. The legal advice so far had been not to pursue becoming a CIO.</p> <p>Board Training - proposal to provide safeguarding training in house. This will would be provided prior to the start of next Board meeting. If board members cannot attend this then it will also be provided at a staff meeting on 6th March.</p> <p>A number of board members attended or watched the "Exploring Whitenss Forum" and several commented on how informative and challenging it was. All Board members were encouraged to listen to the recording.</p> <p>The Board also agreed that they would watch the documentary "After The Flood" with a link be provided for Board members to watch in advance and then it can be discussed at a Board.</p> <p>Board to think about what other training they feel might be needed. SMR to circulate the list of NCVO training.</p> <p>RAP Recruitment and Board Representation - various suggestions made about recruitment. Board representation agreed - LH 22 March in person; TR 28 June on-line; CP 27 September on-line; & CW 13 December in person.</p> <p>Board Members Absence</p>

	SMR will meet with the two board members.
	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>December Management Accounts</p> <p>PR provided the management accounts for end of year. A positive year overall. Most of the website development payments have been made or accounted for.</p> <p>Cash flow reveals that we have ended the year at the expected point at about £59,000 above contingency. However, there is a budgeted I&E Deficit in 2024, which will need careful monitoring. This will be due to increase in staff and costs and the legal processes we will engage in.</p> <p>The new support costs for the new IT system are still to be assessed.</p> <p>The 2023 Annual Accounts will be approved at the May Board Meeting for distribution prior to the AGM in July.</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Next meeting 23rd February (1.30 till 5 pm). Safeguarding Training will start at 12.15</p>

Approved



S Monckton-Rickett
Chair of Trustees
23 February 2024