

# WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

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## ***HALF YEARLY MEETING***

VENUE: Castell Brychan, Aberystwyth

DATE: 30 June 2005

PRESENT: Dr J. Lionel Madden (Chairman)

### Local Authorities

Councillor Morfudd M. Jones (Denbighshire)  
Councillor Dilwyn O. Roberts (Conwy)  
Councillor John Meirion Davies (Isle of Anglesey)  
Councillor Eirwyn Williams (Carmarthen)  
Councillor A. D. Hampton (Vale of Glamorgan)  
Councillor Mrs Dorothy M. J. James (Powys)  
Councillor John M. Griffiths (Pembrokeshire)  
Councillor B. Towyn Evans (Ceredigion)  
Councillor Mrs Rhianon Passmore (Caerphilly)

### Chief Librarians

Mrs Rona Aldrich

### CILIP Cymru

Mr Rhys Bebb Jones

### Academi

Dr Huw Meirion Edwards

### Friends of the Welsh Books Council

Professor M. Wynn Thomas

### Council Panels

Mr Gareth Davies Jones (Publishing Grants Panel – Welsh-language)  
Mr Gareth William Jones (Children's Books Panel)  
Mr Richard Houdmont (Marketing Panel)

### Honorary Secretary

Mr D. Geraint Lewis

### Honorary Treasurer

Mr W. Gwyn Jones

### Honorary Counsel

Mr Milwyn Jarman QC

### Co-opted Members

Mrs Catrin Puw Davies  
Mr W. Gwyn Williams

### Staff

Miss Gwerfyl Pierce Jones (Director)  
Mr Elwyn Jones (Head of Administration and Public Relations)  
Mr Elgan Davies (Head of the Design Department)

Mr Dewi Morris Jones (Head of the Editorial Department)  
 Mr D. Philip Davies (Head of the Marketing Department)  
 Miss Menna Lloyd Williams (Head of the Children's Books Department)  
 Mr Arwyn Roderick (Head of Finance, Business and Information Technology)  
 Mr Dafydd Charles Jones (Distribution Centre Manager)  
 Mr Dyfed Evans  
 Mrs Eleri Huws  
 Miss Emma Evans  
 Mr Emyr Wyn Evans  
 Mr Arwel Glyn Roberts

APOLOGIES: Councillors R. Arwel Pierce; Christopher Bithell; Keith Morgan; Margaret E. Davies; J. W. Turner; Gill Clark; Alan V. Breeze; Robert H. Poole; Jonathan Austin; Lynda G. Williams; Messrs. Alun Creunant Davies; P. Mark Williams; Iolo M. Ll. Walters; John Valentine Williams; William Howells; John Rees Thomas; Alun P. Thomas; Geraint H. James; Dr Brynley F. Roberts; Dr Rhidian Griffiths; Mrs Ann Keane; Ms Sue Johnson; Mrs Mary Palmer.

## **1 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to new members: Councillors Morfudd Jones (Denbighshire); Rhianon Passmore (Caerphilly) and Dilwyn Roberts (Conwy).
- 1.2 Mr Emyr Wyn Evans, a member of the Marketing Department, was welcomed to his first meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman expressed the Council's sincere condolences to Mr Alun Creunant Davies in his recent bereavement. Mr Davies had himself undergone surgery recently and the Chairman wished him well on behalf of all members of Council.

The Council also wished to express condolences to Dr Rhidian Griffiths on his sad loss.

- 1.4 The Chairman noted that he was extremely pleased to see the Honorary Counsel at the meeting. He thanked Mr Milwyn Jarman for his generous advice on several occasions during the year.

## **2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting, held on 24 November 2004, were confirmed.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1 Grants 2005/06  
 The Director presented a paper outlining the situation regarding grants for 2005/06. She noted that the figures were almost identical to the estimates presented during the November meeting.
- 3.2 Culturenet Cymru: Books from the Past  
 It was reported that Culturenet Cymru had been transferred to the National Library of Wales and that discussions would need to be held soon regarding the future of the Books from the Past scheme.

### 3.3 Friends of the Welsh Books Council

In the absence of Mr Alun Creunant Davies, Chairman of the Friends of the Welsh Books Council, the Vice-Chairman, Professor M. Wynn Thomas, presented the report on his behalf.

He also sympathised on behalf of the members with Mr Davies in his bereavement and wished him well following his illness.

Professor Thomas reported that the membership of the Friends was currently 412 and that forms were available if anyone wished to join or knew of others who might wish to become members. He stated that the latest information pack was about to be sent out and would include a copy of *The Friend* newsletter.

It was reported that a general meeting of the Friends would take place in the autumn. This meeting would include an election to appoint officers for the next three years.

## 4 **CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The following change to the Constitution was confirmed:

Membership [Section IV (i) (d)]

Delete

Career Development Group, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Wales

## 5 **ELECTION OF CHIEF OFFICERS TO THE COUNCIL 2005–2008**

- 5.1 Chairman  
Professor M. Wynn Thomas was elected
- 5.2 Vice-Chairman  
Mr Gareth Davies Jones was elected
- 5.3 Honorary Secretary  
Mr Geraint Lewis was re-elected
- 5.4 Honorary Treasurer  
Mr W. Gwyn Jones was re-elected
- 5.5 Honorary Counsel  
Mr Milwyn Jarman QC was re-elected
- 5.6 Honorary Solicitor  
Mr Alun P. Thomas was re-elected

Professor Thomas thanked the members for the honour of being appointed Chairman. He also paid tribute to Dr Lionel Madden for his exceptional contribution to the work of the Books Council over a number of years. He presented Dr Madden with a complete set of *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*, the University of Wales Welsh-language dictionary, in appreciation of his service to the Books Council.

## 6 ELECTION OF CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES 2005–2008

The four listed below were elected to serve as Custodian Trustees for the period 2005–2008:

Professor M. Wynn Thomas  
Mr Gareth Davies Jones  
Mr D. Geraint Lewis  
Mr W. Gwyn Jones

## 7 REPRESENTING CHIEF LIBRARIANS (up to 8)

The following names were confirmed to represent the Chief Librarians for the period 2005–2008:

Mr Dewi Thomas	Carmarthen
Ms Ffion Lloyd	Newport
Mr Robat Arwyn Jones	Denbighshire
Miss Tudfil Adams	Powys
Mr Lloyd Ellis	Neath Port Talbot
Mrs Siân Jones	Vale of Glamorgan
Mr T. Hywel James	Gwynedd
Mr Lawrence Rawsthorne	Flintshire

## 8 A REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 8.1 Two Chief Librarians

On the recommendation of the Chairman, it was agreed to invite Mrs Siân Jones and Mr Lawrence Rawsthorne to serve on the Executive Committee.

### 8.2 Co-opted Members to the Council and Executive Committee (up to 4)

It was agreed to re-elect Mrs Catrin Pw Davies and Mr W. Gwyn Williams. One new member had been nominated, namely Mr Ioan Kidd, and his election was confirmed.

The Chairman paid tribute to Dr Brynley F. Roberts, a former Chairman of the Council, who was retiring as a co-opted member after having served the Council for many years in several capacities.

### 8.3 Others

The Chairman noted that, as required by the Constitution, a comprehensive list of local authority representatives and members of Council Sub-committees and Panels would be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

## 9 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reports were presented by the Head of the Marketing Department and the Head of the Children's Books Department on their departments' activities.

### 9.1 Gwales Developments

The Head of the Marketing Department referred to the exciting developments to the *gwales* website in recent months and noted that the site had attracted 7.5 million 'hits' during the past 12 months. He further noted that the website receives around 850,000 visits a month from customers worldwide.

He noted that in addition to improvements for individual customers, the services to booksellers were also being enhanced. Training had also been offered to the independent bookshops, and this had led to an increase in orders from bookshops, amounting to £465,000.

He also referred to the intention to create another version of *gwales* specifically for libraries, with the financial support of CyMAL. It was noted that this development had resulted directly from Professor Hywel Roberts's report on the needs of public libraries in Wales and that a working group representing the profession, chaired by Professor Roberts, had been set up to oversee the scheme.

#### 9.2 Supporting Reading Groups

In the context of libraries' support for the network of reading groups throughout Wales, Phil Davies referred to the resource pack, *Sharing the Buzz*, which had been launched recently.

The purpose of the pack was to offer advice to those wishing to set up new groups and to offer new ideas to existing groups.

As part of the joint venture, members of reading groups would be part of an ambitious day for readers and authors in Aberystwyth later in the year, at which a series of trade awards would be presented to the publishing industry.

#### 9.3 Book Supplements

It was noted that the *Llyfrau'r Haf* supplement had been produced and widely distributed and that the latest publication under the Outreach Scheme, *Wake Up to Wales*, had recently been published.

#### 9.4 Presence in the Summer Festivals

It was reported that the usual shows and festivals were underway. The Books Council had already attended the Urdd Eisteddfod and the Hay Festival and planned to visit the forthcoming Agricultural Show at Builth Wells and the National Eisteddfod.

#### 9.5 Promotional Activities (Children's Books Department)

The Head of the Children's Books Department reported on the success of the book clubs, *Sbri-di-ri* and *Sbondonics*, which had sold books to the value of £98,216 through schools during the previous financial year.

She also reported that the book competitions had been held again this year and that they had been very successful – with the increase in numbers making the choice of venue increasingly difficult.

#### 9.6 laith Pawb Funding

It was reported that the Books Council had been invited by ACCAC to administer a scheme which enabled every primary school in Wales to order up to £350 worth of Welsh-language materials. The very tight schedule had been a challenge. However, the scheme had been hugely successful and the Schools Officers and the staff at the Distribution Centre were thanked for their excellent work on this project.

## 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

At the end of the meeting, Dr Lionel Madden thanked Professor M. Wynn Thomas for his kind words and wished him well during his term of office as Chairman. He also expressed his thanks to all members of Council, and the Books Council staff, and especially the Director, for their support.