

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of FWBO Corwen 29th April 2025

Vajraloka, Ty'n Ddol , Corwen, Denbighshire, LL21 OEN

Present; Rijumitra, Tejananda, Julie, Cittamoksa, Kusalajoti, Jinapalita, Paul, Moksavira, Amita (minutes), Samata, Vidyacitta(zoom)

1)Apologies for absence

Prakasa ,Kavaradhi, Tejapushpa

2)The previous AGM minutes (2024) Ratified by council

3)Chairmans report

4)Treasurer's report

5)Membership review. Current members of FWBO Corwen. Rijumitra, Prakasha, Jinapalita,Tejananda, Cittamoksha, Amita, Vidyacitta, Tejapushpa, Kavaradhi,Samata,Julie, Paul, Moksavira,Kusalajoti.

6)Resignations of council members

Samata,Rijumitra,Tejananda,Cittamoksa,Vidyacitta, Amita, Tejapushpa, Jinapalita

7)Election of council

Rijumitra proposed by Citamoksa seconded by Vidyacitta

Amita proposed by Rijumitra, seconded by Tejananda

Tejananda proposed by Rijumitra seconded Kusalajoti

Cittamoksa proposed by Paul seconded by Jinapalita

Vidyacitta proposed by Rijumitra seconded by Moksavira

Jinapalita proposed by Tejananda seconded by Julie

Tejapushpa proposed by Rijumitra seconded by Amita

Samata proposed by Amita seconded by Rijumitra

8) Any other business

None

9) Audited Accounts accepted by the council

FWBO Corwen Council Meeting 29th April 2025

Present: Rijumitra(RM), Tejananda (TN), Cittamoksa(CM), Kusalajoti (KJ), Moksavira (MV), Julie Yau (JY), Amita (AM), Paul Foster(PF),Vidyacitta (VC), Samata (ST)

1) Apologies for Absence

Prakasha, Tejapushpa, Kavaradhi

2) Election of officers

Jinapalita nominates Rijumitra as chairman, seconded by Samata
Rijumitra proposes Cittamoksa as treasurer seconded by Tejananda
Jinapalita proposes Amita as secretary seconded by Samata

3) Ratification of minutes

Minutes accepted and ratified as accurate

4) Matters arising

- Vajraloka charitable status-(AM) in process of contacting Stiranaga for advice about changing this. CM will help.
- External lighting progress, JP, electricians are over the next two months installing lighting .
- Hut is in process, in the gaps between next three retreats new hut will go up

5) Proposal for new beds. Money for new beds will come out of the legacy. Julie looked at all the beds and their condition. 17 need replacing due to old age and poor condition. 8 have some possible life left and newer mattresses. VC feels we should take the opportunity to change them all, Julie said that would offer advantages. CM felt it was excessive to replace them all in the context of resources, but having slept on one of the newer beds felt the mattress poor. Excluding VAT it would be £3500 extra to replace them all. ST felt all new beds would be a good factor to promote Vajraloka .JP in favour of replacing all, but will be keen to re-home the reasonably good beds.

Motion to replace all the beds accepted, with the aim of trying to re-home the good beds. Possibility of free free-floating tables being included in the order muted by Julie.

6) Non-residential cook payments

Paul-at present it is cook for two retreats and get a free retreat. Proposal is to increase payment to £26 a day including days off. A lot of the cooks are living off the money. Just under half retreats have non-residential cooks. Amita felt more money would be appropriate due to the arduous nature of the work. Motion to increase payment to £26 a day carried.

7) Financial report (CM)

CM sent around the report. In a healthy financial situation due to legacies, small community historically and running a surplus on running retreats. Future considerations are the new larger community and paying external retreat leaders.

8) Team update

- Paul- Morning sit and exercise important to him. Getting familiar with kitchen role and finds the cooking ok. Will review after a year.
- Julie-Been here 6months. Has been planning beds, enjoying spring. Feels everyone is lovely. Took a 1yr sabbatical from work.
- Moksavira- Has moved from similar role in NZ. Familiarising himself with the maintenance in this settling in time.
- Kusalajoti-New booking system reliable and satisfying. Has finished a financial year. Community is supportive. Came for a year, now entering 3rd year.
- Jinapalita-Still feels he is arriving as living out of cupboards prior to new hut. Enjoying new situation and helpful atmosphere in the community. Has enjoyed giving shrine room some attention.
- Rijumitra- An interesting phase , the community enlarged, and also busier. Feels the making of a good community. Has a 5 week break coming.

9) Chairmans input

- Prakasha's report excellent, to be circulated further.
- Publicity needs a fair amount of attention. The website itself needs revamping, and will cost @£3000. Needs to be more alive, containing blogs and retreat information. Paul says some retreat centres have active Instagram accounts. Vajraloka approach to social media needs to be reviewed.CM- we made a good surplus last year so infact there are new people attending.
- Virtually no presence in other centres, eg no leaflets and programmes nowadays. We need to develop a strategy with regards to reach people who just don't know about Vajraloka. People in the Mandala group from different centres could be involved in having day events where Vajraloka's approach is presented in those centres.
- Programme for 2026 is nearly completed, looks fantastic.
- Less popular retreats are still being run, as these are for teachers who are establishing themselves. These need to be nurtured.

- Bute Pylons-No finalising of planned route of Pylons yet.

10) Kamalashila's ashes

JP- significant portion of his ashes in shrine room. The existing stupa was Vajracitta's, and recently his brother attended to pay respects. VC-Perhaps we should have a second stupa or memorial in the garden.

11) Any other business

- CM asking about Sheffield hosting retreat here.RM-programme is full.
- CM raising issue about improving quality of life during winter, could anything be done. Maybe making communal area cosier.
- CM Cashflow difficulties. (KJ money is in a 90day account- will be released in June- needs to be more planning to avoid this situation)
- CM Vajraloka will be spending £41,500 on beds, hut and website.
- Julie. Pensions is a concern she has. Rijumitra will try to find out from ECA what other centres plan. Some sort of pensions provision will help support longer term stay-Amita will minute this for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 22nd July 2025 10.15am

The Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (Corwen) – henceforth FWBO (Corwen) – is registered with the Charity Commission, number 514363. The charity runs Vajraloka Meditation Retreat Centre, Tyn y Ddol, Corwen, Denbighshire LL21 0EN. The charity is constituted by Deed Trust, constituted in September 1983 and amended in November 1986 and again in December 2002.

FWBO(Corwen) is administered by a council of Trustees comprising, during 2023, Dh Rijumitra (William Gow) Chairman, Dh Cittamoksa (Mark Shea), Treasurer, Dh Jinapalita, Dh Tejapushpa Entwistle and Dh Amita (Dr Sion Williams), Dh Tejananda (John Wakeman), Dh Vidyacitta (Cormac Higgs) and Dh Samata (Teresa Fischer)

The overall purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Buddhist Religion, and to encourage and teach members of the residential community at Vajraloka, and members of the wider Triratna Buddhist community (FWBO), and others, to live in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha and of Buddhism. In particular the charity supports members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and Community and works in cooperation with the other groups within the Triratna Buddhist Community. The charity is organisationally and financially independent from these other groups, though all are under the spiritual guidance of the Triratna Buddhist Order.

The charity carries out its objectives principally by running residential retreats on the theme of Buddhist meditation. The

retreats are mainly open to the general public, with various degrees of previous meditation experience. The capacity for each retreat is 21 people. In addition, members of the residential team also visit other Buddhist groups and centres to teach.

Vajraloka Retreat Centre aims to have a residential community of between five and seven who support the running of the retreats. During 2024 the team included three women and two men. As well as living support a small stipend is offered to each member, together with a retreat/vacation stipend allowance. Despite not being up to full strength the community in 2024 were able, with the help of Order Members living elsewhere, to offer a full range of residential retreats.

Akasapala, our resident cook left after six years of loyal service and Jinapalita returned as part of the residential community. Kavaradhi ran a very successful recruitment drive and Julie Lou joined us in September and two further team members will join the Community early in 2025 bringing the Community up to full strength with a team of seven.

In addition, other former members of Vajraloka community continue to play an active part in the wider team, which helps Vajraloka greatly with running the retreats. The admin works that Padmadasa and Prajnapriya who had been helping with has now been brought in-house and great appreciation is given to them both in the support they gave in helping bridge a difficult time. Upeksanandi continues to help with programme planning, and ongoingly participating in retreat teams. Huge gratitude goes to all who help Vajraloka to keep running and fulfilling its purpose, including our guest leaders and retreat

team supporters. Particular thanks to our 'external' trustees who have continued to be highly supportive of the project, despite sometimes very demanding personal circumstances.

I would add that morale is high and there is a real enthusiasm in keeping the spirit of Vajraloka well and truly alive helping people deepen their spiritual practice.

Dh Rijumitra (William Gow) Chairman. January 2025

FWBO CORWEN

Financial Activities

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Income	
4000 Donations received	4,019.08
4001 Donations (non gift aid)	494.00
4002 Donations for Online retreats	4,906.63
4006 Bursary donations	979.00
4200 Gifts and legacies	49,397.31
4400 Retreat income	119,008.10
4701 Bank Interest	6,583.72
4801 Gift aid claimed	1,258.00
4810 Stationary/pharmacy items	103.34
4901 Solar Panel income	1,558.20
Services	0.00
Total Income	£188,307.38
Cost of Sales	
6400 Kitchen Equipment	1,656.15
6401 Suma wholefoods	20,080.24
6402 Supermarkets & Online Food	5,488.56
6403 Fruit and Veg	9,645.30
6404 Shrine room costs	583.15
6406 Household general	3,251.00
6501 Laundry	1,017.50
6601 Guest teachers and team help	21,294.16
Total Cost of Sales	£63,016.06
TOTAL	£125,291.32
Expenditures	
7002 Water	852.68
7003 Business tax/rates	3,647.61
7104 Premises Insurances	3,284.84
7105 Electricity	4,455.59
7106 Gas	7,027.45
7251 Chair/Mitra convener costs	582.00
7300 Printing, Postage and Stationery	463.25
7302 Office/General Administrative Expenses	470.28
7303 Bookkeeping	427.50
7304 Computer and software Costs	2,014.18
7351 Internet	893.95
7450 Books/Other	15.00
7490 Gardening	1,650.02
7500 Repair and maintenance	4,237.48

FWBO CORWEN

Financial Activities

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
7503 Premises expenses	286.96
7505 Vehicle fuel	1,144.90
7506 Vehicle expenditure	42.98
7507 Vehicle licenses	335.00
7606 Medical	130.93
7701 Bank charges	307.85
7702 Paypal Bank charges	2,206.74
7803 Team Support Akashapala	8,717.34
7804 Team support Kavaradhi	5,315.50
7805 Team Support Rijumitra	5,054.78
7806 Team Support Tejananda	9,000.00
7807 Team Support Julie Yau	384.73
7809 Team Support Prajnapriya	2,574.00
7810 Team Support Kusalajoti	6,995.00
7830 Team Recreation	475.20
7902 Accountancy and other Professional Services	225.45
7950 Dues, Subscriptions & Donations	7,999.50
Total Expenditures	£81,218.69
NET OPERATING INCOME	£44,072.63
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	£44,072.63

Note

1. Cittamoksha and Upekshanandi support is included in Guest/team help

BANK ACCOUNTS ; Nat West Current Account £64,712.16 . Nat West Deposit account £19,871.05
Savings Account £20.00 . PayPal £14,290.08. Petty Cash £200
Estimated Credit card debt (£500)



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees FWBO CORWEN

On accounts for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024 Charity no (if any) 514363

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 27.02.2025

Name: ROGER GOODMAN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

[Empty box for professional qualification]