

# Village Scribe Association

Association for the Advancement of Innovative Information and Communication Technologies for Rural Development

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*"We strive to make access to human knowledge universal by exposing learners and educators to innovative information technology."*

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the VSA e.V. (Germany) and the VSA Trust (South Africa)

20 November 2020 4 pm South African Time / 3 pm Central European Time on online platform Zoom

### 1. Welcome and Excused

Participants VSA e.V. (Germany)

- Anna Wertlen (Chairperson)
- Erika Wertlen (Vice-Chairperson)
- Ronald Wertlen (Founder Member)
- Christoph Flügge (Founder Member)

Excused VSA e.V. (Germany)

- Eva Hert (Treasurer)
- Sabine Wiekenberg (Founder Member)
- Judith Flügge (Founder Member)
- Nikola Zug (Founder Member)
- Antonio Gulli (Founder Member of the VSA vzw in Belgium)

Participants VSA Trust (South Africa)

- Kjetil Torp (Manager)
- Rod Amner (Chairperson Board)
- Clement Simuja (Board Member)
- Zintle Vambe (Intern and Core Group Coordinator)
- Thanduxolo Royi (Open Lab Coordinator)
- Phillip Knaak (Former Volunteer)
- Kirsten Kock (Volunteer)
- Martin Zabel (Volunteer)

Excused VSA Trust (South Africa)

- Sarah Hanton (Board Member)
- Gerry Accom (Board Member)
- Craig Renaud (Board Member and Treasurer)

### 2. Treasurer's Reports

The treasurer's reports were presented by Anna Wertlen for the VSA e.V. (Germany) and by Kjetil Torp for the VSA Trust (South Africa). Follow these links to read the treasurers' reports: [VSA Trust](#) and [VSA e.V](#)

### **3. Annual Audit of the VSA Trust (South Africa)**

The VSA Trust was successfully audited and received a clean audit by The Tax House. To read the report, please send an email to [kjetil@awarenet.org](mailto:kjetil@awarenet.org). The present trustees of the VSA Trust unanimously approved the audit presented.

### **4. Discharge of the managing board of the VSA e.V. (Germany)**

The managing board was unanimously discharged by the members of the VSA e.V.

### **5. Annual election of the German board**

Christoph Flügge functioned as the election supervisor.

- Anna Wertlen was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the board for two years.
- Erika Wertlen was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the board for two years.
- Eva Hert was unanimously elected as the Treasurer of the board for two years.
- Ronald Wertlen was unanimously elected as the internal auditor for one year.

All elected accepted their election.

### **6. Adoption of child protection guidelines**

The new child protection guidelines for the VSA e.V. and the VSA Trust were presented by Kjetil Torp. The content was discussed and the following changes suggested:

- Examples of children's' rights shall be added to the guidelines. (Anna Wertlen)
- A register check at the South African National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO) and Part B of the National Child Protection Register shall not be necessary due to the current unreliability of the register. (Erika Wertlen)
- A clear police certificate and a signed affidavit declaring that the candidate or employee has never been convicted of a sexual offense against children shall be enough. From the police certificate it will already be clear whether or not the candidate or employee has been convicted of a sexual offense against children. (Anna Wertlen)

It was decided that the new child protection guideline shall be changed according to the suggestions and the final versions adopted by the boards. Kjetil Torp will send out the final draft based on the suggestions above.

### **7. 2019/2020 Project Report**

Kjetil Torp, Zintle Vambe and Thanduxolo Royi presented the activities of the VSA Trust (South Africa).

Kjetil Torp reported that in spite of the South African-wide lockdown as a response to Covid-19 the organisation had been able to organise many activities for learners throughout the year due to the quick adoption of stringent regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the organisation's base at the Joza Youth Hub.

Zintle Vambe reported that the core group project had a total of 65 learners from grades 8 till 11 who attended on a weekly basis. All activities were suspended due to the lockdown at the end of March 2020 but reopened again under Covid-19 restrictions on the 1st of June 2020.

A positive that came from the Covid-situation is the acquisition of five tablets which were loaded with educational content, for core group learners to use as a study tool at home. Learners use the tablets on a weekly basis and return it for the next group of learners to use.

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In terms of the school cooperation project, Zintle Vambe reported that it was suspended for the year 2020 due to the Covid situation.

Thanduxolo Royi reported that the open lab project was also closed at the end of March due to the lockdown but was reopened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. There has been good attendance after the reopening, particularly by grade 4-7 who do not go to school every day due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The whole annual report presentation can be found on [this link](#).

## **8. 2020/2021 Roadmap and Fundraising**

Kjetil Torp summarised the roadmap for 2021, see [this link](#)

## **9. Miscellaneous**

No issues arising.

## **10. Closure**

The AGM ended at 6.30 pm South African time / 5.30 pm Central European Time.