

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PLUS AREAS

14TH Annual General Meeting

(79th Annual National Conference

MINUTES OF NAGM

Saturday 22nd February 2020

Held at the Jacobean Hotel, Coventry

1.Chairman's welcome to the delegates

Chairman and Vice president entered everyone stood up.

Steve National Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the late delay. Thanked Katie and Mark for the technical help.

2.The Presidents Address by Vice President

Steve National Chairman handed over to Gerry Vice President for his speech said wanted to grow the organisation and invigorate. Mentioned that no new people and would be nice to have new members and to have all the groups present. Find out reason why they not able to go. Need to find a way to go forward. Said please everyone speak today it's a day over to the members to get everyones view even those who don't normally express their views. Don't be afraid to change if you think change is important to move forward. Said don't rush off end meeting make sure say everything you want to. Healthy debate is needed. Need to make people engage. Need to say what is good and what is wrong and please to take part in the day and that everyone says something throughout the day. Take one step further from turning up to meeting to take part. No major motions and not mandated by group how to vote. Said observers are also important. Make most of the day and that had good debate.

Don't be afraid to involve in the debate.

Steve thanked Gerry.

3. The Election of Tellers

Election of Tellers

Adrian and Ben Proposed Didcot Seconded Leeds

16 Voting strength

16 Voted for

4. The Election of Ballot counters

Election of ballot counters

Adrian and Ben

5. Apologies for absence

Christina Crawshaw

Rothwell Group

Solihull Group

Kath and Simon Good

6.1 Acceptance of the minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting held at the Jacobean Hotel Coventry on 23rd February 2019

Acceptance of minutes of last NAGM

Tina Bunyan Didcot group asked if any group not at previous NAGM to abstain.

Adrian confirmed it only group not there previous not people.

James Oliver mentioned Coventry group not group in previous year

Proposed Stevanage

Seconded Lichfield

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 4

Points of accuracy

None

7. Matters Arising within

None

8. Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Reports for the year of 2019

Stevenage Delegate Eric wanted to take website internet officer report from it proposed Stevenage
Seconded Barnet

For 12

Against 1

Abstained 3

Carried

Floor to ask questions about reports

Katie Hawkins Barking Delegate pointed out it nice to see long chairman report and well thought
out.

HGS Report

Any questions for Ian

No questions

James Oliver Report

No questions

North Thames and Chiltern

Eric Bean Stevenage delegate asked at previous meetings to have reports sooner in the future but
came late. Wants them sooner.

Disappointing when cant read a report properly.

Midlands Area

No questions

Anglian and South East Area

No questions

Area chairmans asked to read reports out.

Francis Midland Area representative

In terms of AEC positions 3

Cash £5851.44

Walking holiday in August to Carlisle

Good weather

Lincs Quest events in 2019 quizzes, boat trips, hiking in Peak district

Area had ten pin bowling and Geocaching events

Abba tribute night at Easter

Solihull Bowling events

Rothwell events each weekend

Lincs quest weekend events

£10 subsidy to Christmas party 87 members took offer non members could attend but had to pay full price

Training

Publicity and communication £100 per year subsidy from area to groups

Area has a facebook page

Recruitment

All groups recruiting new members and allowed Coventry to reopen

Using facebook to promote

Strength in current groups

Alison Didcot group asked who wrote the report in absence of chairman

James Oliver is acting as chair and he wrote the report

No further questions

Steve national chairman said it nice they opened Coventry group with 3 members

North Thames and Chiltern Matthew Dickenson

6 groups totalling 117 members

Cash at bank £6115.88

Area worth £5315.36

Positions filled 5

Support to member groups to organise events

Publicity NTAC Yahoo group and email. Telephone. Facebook and meet up groups

Area conferences quarterly

East Anglia and Southeast Martin Posner

5 groups total 74 members

Cash in bank £3427.71

4 positions

Lots events since last NAGM

Kings Lynn summer mini break and WASH

Charity quiz

Kent Plus invite to Pirates day

Publicity ongoing and help through publicity funds

3 groups with double figure membership

AGM 26th January

Attended all NEC meetings.

Loan WASH £400

Katie Hawkins Barnet delegate asked why they active in East Angla but no groups at NAGM

One reason is cost £145 that's £290 and most groups only have £1000 in bank.

Tina Bunyan Didcot group commented that areas help delegates with costs.

Southern Area

Printed report.

questions for Southern Area.

Alison Jones Didcot asked with £949 in bank had they paid levies as showing as a deficit, Chair said cheque raised for it.

Tina Bunyan Didcot asked about if they had idea for new groups in the area.

Groups doing own recruiting and large recruitment in the area, queries further south Southampton and Portsmouth area.

Steve chair asked whether the floor happy with the reports.

Erica Knight Coventry group said they can't hear at the back.

Steve repeated about the reports are people happy with people voting on spoken reports.

Propose on block exc internet

Proposed Lincs Seconded Lichfield

Voting raise of hands on block report exc internet report

15 for

1 abstention

Jeff Ray

Internet co-ordinator

Said he got report but will go into details later on.

Apologised for the lateness of the report because of poor health and seeing screen.

Questions from floor

Erik Bean Stevanage delegate

Asked if voting now or later on agenda item

Not spoken as vote now and it later on

If everyone on floor postpone vote to later on in afternoon.

Chris Malloy Barnet and Dagenham delegate

Questioned about why the 2014 membership on there when needed a compliance GDPR data form.

Ian Crawshaw said he would look into it and get back to Chris.

9. Presentation and acceptance of the Federation of the Federations Accounts for the year of 2019

James Oliver National Finance officer said if look at income and expenditure good surplus and outstanding levies paid into national bank account.

Katie Hawkins independent examiner as 2 sets of accounts James and Katies reports. Differences in them.

Income and expenditure match it balance sheet that there differences.

Vote on James then vote on katies

324 members of federation December 2019

No questions

National Accounts

NAGM Accounts

Spring holiday Accounts

James combined but Katies separate

Proposer for accounts – Income and Expenditure Leeds and Lichfield seconded

Votes for the Income and Expenditure accounts

9 for

7 abstentions

0 against

Vote on the balance sheet

Katie Hawkins independent examiner said did not have long to do accounts so James and her not had time to discuss accounts.

In 2018 there was missing facts and only had bank statements

NAGM gave money to spring holiday etc

James done a combined account

Can add 3 balance sheets together

Assets for deposits paid out and the liabilities of Holborn so different figures

Assets and liabilities need to be taken into account.

James figures just included the bank balances at 31st December.

Sole traders really but Katie said should still have assets and liabilities in them.

Vote on the balance sheet

Proposed balance sheet

John Smith Leeds delegates asked if both balance sheets represent the same figures. Does that then mean one is inaccurate. Either have a talk between themselves and come up with a solution. Both balance sheets are right but don't have the same figures.

Katie Hawkins independent examiner said there figures missing from James balance sheet deposits etc.

Need to discuss it.

If James had prepayments on his balance sheet it be ok.

John Smith proposed for this year to vote on Katies version and to keep James one in the records for information.

Vote on katies balance sheet.

John believed that Katie balance sheet ok and proposed and seconded Stevenage

Votes for 16

Vote on Katie Hawkins balance sheet

Proposed Leeds

Seconded Stevenage

Mark Hawkins Barnet observer

Said people should be asking questions on the balance sheet.

Katie should be able to explain them

Invited floor to ask Katie questions about the balance sheet

Katie Hawkins independent examiner

3 income and expenditures main, NAGM and Holborn

3 balance sheets

NAGM and Holborn shows the difference in bank account start and end of year.

Overview if event made a profit or loss

Kept balance sheets separately as 3 income and expenditure accounts

Shows any loans to the events

Anyone have any questions

Tina Bunyan Didcot asked if everyone had 3 separate accounts

Katie thanked James for taking on the role of National Finance officer as last few years been very hard work

Steve Chairman said that having order and having reports on time and making them as clear as possible

Vote for the balance sheet

Votes for Katies balance sheet (voting strength 15 at moment)

14 for

0 Against

1 abstention

Carried

Francis Wallington Lichfield asked where his question was that he asked the NEC

Asking NEC about the accounts for the previous 2 years as had to do forensic to get enough information from when Nick Grant was National Finance officer. Steve said he was not party to that.

Dear Ian, Steve and James

I shall repeat myself asking if domain been purchased for website.

When will NEC use cheaper hosting a cheaper domain.

Ian Crawshaw HGS can say that the person who approached him about hosting website paid it but that was 14 months ago.

Have paid 2019/20 hosting charge reduced to £100 which reasonable but can investigate cheaper hosting.

Cost savings and value for money inc public liability insurance

10. Election of National Chairman to serve from No candidates then moving on

Steve said he would stand he is a candidate

Proposed Barnet

Seconded Lincs Quest

Any questions for Steve

March 2020

Said briefly that it interesting role but said takes a few years to get fully into the role. Found historical things and hard to get to grips with in one year.

Vote for

Steve asked to leave the room

Matthew Dickenson said it traditionally paper vote but can take vote by hands in air

Proposal speech Katie Hawkins Barnet Delegate said she liked his long report, seen him be active in role.

Formal second

Votes for

16 so unanimous Steve chairman again

Steve returned and said thank you.

Final point about health and safety because of the wires.

Mark Hawkins said only had 15 mins to set up

Moving forward to elections of national officers March 2020

11. Election of National Officers to serve from March 2020

HGS

HGS

No candidates

Ian Crawshaw HGS said he thinks anyone stands for role makes it their own and the administrator does NEC meetings minutes HGS the AGM minutes. Said on hand to advise new HGS.

Election of National Finance Officer

James Oliver asked to stand

Proposed Stevenage

Seconded Leeds

Alison Jones Didcot asked if standing as NFO will stand down as Midland Area chairman. Said will find someone to be Midland Area chairman.

Steve asked if they can get one set of accounts in agreement as bit confused by it all, it's a learning exercise to get accounts over earlier in January next year.

James left the room

Proposer Stevenage Eric Bean delegate said done a lot of work but logistical errors but will sort it and he learnt a lot.

Leeds delegate John Smith said to add that James and Katie have reasonable working relationship and that problems can be sorted next year.

Move to vote

Votes for 16

Unanimous

James Oliver now National Finance officer

Apologised for delay while await James to come back.

James returned.

Moving to next post National Training Officer

None

National Activities Officer

Ben Allen said he cant re-stand automatically as it 3 years in.

HGS said ask conference to suspend 5.1.1 National constitution to suspend it about the 3 terms.

Proposed Lichfield Seconded Didcot

Agreed

Anyone wanting to restand as Activities Officer

Ben Allen wants to restand for further year

Proposed Coventry Seconded Didcot

Questions to Ben

Alison Jones Didcot asked why no biscuits or tea and coffee and squash but not included in price.

Adrian Barnard said had coffee last year but it £3.50 person attending that be 31 x £3.50 x 2.

£7 on personal bill too.

Tina said she thought included in the price.

Ben left the room.

Proposal Adam Redshaw Coventry said he done a good job but 3 times as activities officer let him do the job as no one else wants to.

Secunder Alison Jones Didcot we agree with what Adam just said.

Votes for teller to count

For 14

Unanimous

Duly elected

Ben returned

Ben duly elected for the next 12 months.

Moving on to next one Public Relations Officer

No candidates

Proposal to floor delay **National Internet officer** to report been done

National news Editor

No candidates

Final post

NEC administrator

Rhianna Wright Slough Group asked question where meetings held Steve replied Oxford area as it ideal for people to get to. Coventry was a bit difficult.

Coventry news talks about city not having a emission free zone in Coventry.

Good park and ride scheme in Oxford.

Rhianna said she wanted to stand but not prepared for it. Says experience of admin roles in group and area levels. Part of her work too. Comfortable doing it. Not done national role but willing to give it a go and Oxford ok location.

Steve said sometimes names put people off from national roles.

Proposed Hillingdon

Seconded Didcot

Alison Jones Didcot asked what difference between HGS and National administrator

Ian Crawshaw says the admin roles it NEC meetings and HGS AGM minutes etc.

Any questions for Rhianna.

Proposer Jeff Ray Hillingdon chair proposed Rhianna for post said known for many years and effective roles on Hillingdon meetings including minutes for group and area meetings.

Seconder Tina from Didcot said Rhianna very experienced and can easily do the job doing the minutes vote for Rhianna.

Move for the vote and voting strength 15

Vote for 15

Duly elected

Rescheduling the agenda

Motion debates 13.1 other matters

Katie Hawkins Barking delegate

Copies handed out from motion

Printed extra copies.

In 2019 Ian Crawshaw amended paperwork.

Tidying up of Accounting matters In 2019 Ian Crawshaw (Honorary General Secretary) amended the Standard Groups Constitution, Model Area Constitution, National Constitution and Standing Orders. This work was done to ensure they reflected motions passed at NAGM's from 2014-2018. There are further amendments to be made to bring the sections dealing with finance up to date as they relate back to the days of group Bi-AGM's and employing National Accountants. FYI – Any wording in bold is to be changed, wording in italics is to be removed or added This motion proposes that: a) Section 10.8 of the Standard Groups Constitution (under "Finance") be amended from "The financial books of the Group shall be closed on the 30 September each year and submitted for Independent Examination" To "The financial books of the Group shall be closed on 31st December and submitted for Independent Examination" This would bring it into line with the Model Area Constitution section 9.2.4.1 and National Constitution section 4.5.1 which both state 31st December as the closing date for accounts b) Section 10.9 of the Standard Groups Constitution (under "Finance") be amended from "The Independently-Examined Statement of Accounts for the 6 months prior to closing the books shall be submitted in writing to the Group AGM held next thereafter" To "The Independently-Examined Statement of Accounts for the 12 months prior to closing the books shall be submitted in writing to the Group AGM held next thereafter. If this is not possible due to time constraints then the Group should hold an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) as soon as possible in order to accept the accounts" This would mean that accounts for a whole calendar year

are produced and also gives time to have the accounts independently examined c) 4 of the clauses under Section 4.5 ("Approval of Accounts") of the National Constitution be amended i. Amend clause 4.5.1 from "The financial books of the Federation shall be closed on 31st December in each year and submitted to the National Accountants for approval" To "The financial books of the Federation shall be closed on 31st December in each year and submitted to the Independent Examiner for approval" This would bring it into line with section 10.8 of the Standard Groups Constitution and section 9.2.4.1 of the Model Area Constitution, both of which refer to an Independent Examiner rather than National Accountants ii. Amend clause 4.5.2 from "The National Accountants shall be such firm of accountants or other competent persons (being at least two in number and not being members of either the NEC for the time being or the NEC which succeeds it) as shall have been proposed by the NEC and confirmed as National Accountants at the AGM held in year of account to which the approval relates; and such persons shall be eligible for re-appointment in consecutive years" To "The Independent Examiner shall be such competent person (not being members of either the NEC for the time being or the NEC which succeeds it) as shall have been proposed by the NEC and confirmed as Independent Examiner at the NAGM held in year of account to which the approval relates; and such person shall be eligible for re-appointment in consecutive years" iii. Amend clause 4.5.3 from "The National Finance Officer shall prepare a Profit and Loss account for the relevant financial year of the Federation and a Balance Sheet at 31st December in that year. The NFO shall submit the same to the National Accountants for approval who shall be asked to submit their report to the NEC in such time, being not less than fourteen days prior to the AGM, as will enable the National Finance Officer to incorporate them into their report to the AGM

"The National Finance Officer shall prepare a Profit and Loss account for the relevant financial year of the Federation and a Balance Sheet at 31st December in that year. The NFO shall submit the same to the Independent Examiner for approval who shall be asked to submit their report to the NEC in such time, being not less than fourteen days prior to the NAGM, as will enable the National Finance Officer to incorporate them into their report to the NAGM." iv. Amend clause 4.5.4 from "The Treasurer of each Area shall deliver to the National Finance Officer a certified statement of accounts in respect of their Area at 31st December in the preceding year by a date to be determined in accordance with the internal procedures of the NEC. The National Finance Officer shall deliver to the National Accountants the certified balance sheets received from the Treasurers of the Areas, and the NFO shall inform the delegates attending such AGM any comments expressed by the

National Accountants.” To “The Treasurer of each Area shall deliver to the National Finance Officer a certified statement of accounts in respect of their Area at 31st December in the preceding year by a date to be determined in accordance with the internal procedures of the NEC.” In all my years of being Independent Examiner I have never been given Area accounts to comment upon so I think that section is redundant and could be removed. d) The 4th item under section 1.3.3.3 (under “National Finance Officer”) of the Standing Orders be amended from “Liaise with the Federation’s Accountants and submit accounts for annual approval” To “Liaise with the Federation’s Independent Examiner and submit accounts for annual approval” e) Section 4.3.5 (under “Business of the National Annual General Meeting”) of the Standing Orders be amended from “The appointment of the National Accountants” To “The appointment of the Independent Examiner”

Require 75% majority to be passed

Proposed Barnet

Seconded Stevange

Eric Bean Stevenage delegate said please vote for it tidy up the constitution.

Debate to the floor.

Adrian Barnard as Didcot observer aware that of all the hard work that goes into this could have had 20 motions on it. It is a clean up motion it just needs to be there to make life easier in the future so please vote for this motion.

Steve chairman ask if any questions.

Move to the vote

All in favour of the proposed motion

For 16

Accepted

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Steve greets everyone back. Compliments Ben and Adrian for organising a nice lunch.

Before start establish the voting strength

Raise hands of delegates

Voting strength

15 delegates

Voting strength changed to 16

Moving on to item for Jeff Ray

Going to do 2 things 1 is to summarise report I did that appeared late I apologise.

Topic on agenda about future of the federation

Post on committee as Internet co-ordinator that I was going to take a much broader brief as website marketing and development and also said last year no one elected as publicity will pick that up. Last year was looking into basic research of who was looking for groups like plus. Trying to find who to target at and what content. Who target market might be. What people searching for. Searching for social group they don't search that it usually variation of meeting friends. Came up with idea that we should incorporate to meeting friends into name. Tag plus onto end of it. Can call ourselves plus. Still of opinion that a good way to go. Got mixed reception last year. Need positive guidance from you cant just say don't like it say what you do like. Website online it kind links into all that. Holding off it not live but content is written. Structure in right way. Kind of done but based on research. If don't want to go that track need to decide what do want. Another thing holding off on once live for any amount time going to be generating a lot of enquiries and need to understand what to do with them few near existing groups but vast majority are nowhere near. Decide what going to do about that. Other thing is to incorporate website into a corporate design a new look and feel. Branding is that new groups can use. Can do a simple version of website to start with. So in mean time been doing some of the research of what to do with the enquiries. Information from lots of sources. What people searching for and where they based. Pulling that altogether come up with some top hits. Strong demand and low competition.

Open new groups in easiest areas top ones or least revitalise existing groups

Top tier Brighton and Eastbourne

Brighton is lively but suspects it because of the gay scene that not much else if your not part of it

2 is Leeds

Liverpool and Merseyside

Leicester

In report go further into three tiers

One in second tier is Coventry and just opened group there.

Need to decide where to go from there.

Need to focus on how to find way forward. Focus on what else to call it.

Key thing is that we need some decisions and we need to find our way forwards need brief for this.

One thing is quick discussion with John is this really about thinking of the future of the federation and how we move forward. Have some research on outside world. Team to make it happen. The NEC have lots of day to day things to do so needs to be a project team does anyone want to be on it.

Questions for the floor

Erik Bean Stevenage delegate have thoughts on all that. Defend my criticism was that about technical matters rather than fear of change and suggested to speak to Tom Seddon who does websites for group and his own business. He cannot join team but can help out with ideas. Get advice from him. Was critical about meeting friends plus as still thinks it sounds dodgy. Area meeting seen Barnet post cards and they been successful. About meeting friends but it's the word plus that makes it sound bad. Can get high in searches.

Don't cover the whole country but don't now, need focus where we are. Use resources we got. Steps to success. If groups around country still doing that we will expand.

Help smaller groups expand. Don't try too big too soon.

Take one step at a time be route to success.

Adrian Barnard Didcot observer

Would not change the name from plus used to be 18 plus but argument was about porn sites but they only appeared on the 4th page. Changed to plus looked on first page plus offshore accounts gave up looking if you put in plus.

Plus what are we about meeting friends, activities, confidence building.

Marketing tools don't just approach it as plus.

Call yourself various names its still plus

Trust not a name change for the organisation only for a marketing tool on web addresses etc

John Smith Leeds plus group does not entirely agree about taking over the country reason being see logic in developing groups got but on other hand seems in some sense been doing that for a while maybe not very good at it. Recently got involved with a group called extinction rebellion founded London and now all over the world. As far as can tell no constitution but issued 3 demands and 10 principles and marketing designs. They organise how they choose to, don't use the committee structure and whoever feels like it chairs the meetings.

Set up groups with 10 principals and some marketing information.

Agree with Adrian no need in short term to change name.

Willing to put forward for team, many years before was an area publicity officer.

Propose Jeff to carry on what doing.

Steve asked John what motivated him to join Extinction rebellion. Need to understand why people join a group.

James Oliver NFO in another group in they recruited 18 year olds in it's the strong program that will get members.

Ian Crawshaw normal member hat thinks what Jeff is offering is important but in same place as last year need a mandate to do something positive outcome of it.

John Smith asked to speak a second time.

Adam Redshaw Coventry Delegate

2 sides to what he going say

18 Plus what we joined back when perhaps we were 18 that was all about youth empowerment give them social environment build confidence and learn new skills. Most people we are around now are not that sort of people we know all that.

Move forward however years we been members we different organisation is the old 18 plus offering still relevant. Do we want more culture from heavy drinking, more theatre, more cinema. Perhaps need embrace where we are now. Different culture. Want to meet friends, maybe they want add something to that. Maybe they want public speaking maybe they don't.

Are we looking at 18 plus, are we looking at plus or are we looking at something different.

Bit surprised not much from the floor.

Gerry Edwards said it nice to meet new people and hopefully more next year. Fundamental issues been discussed. Issues are you need to think about. The follow on issues don't agree and expect things to happen you need to think of consequences. Jeff need a mandate and more engagement from the floor. Wants people to engage and agree to.

Mark Hawkins Barnet observer Jeff set out something that is different. Question he addressing is what is the product need to know what it is. Adams point about what is the product. Don't have a clear conscensus of what the product is.

Demographic of people in the room.

Other point where hot spots are helpful.

Question is what can people do with limited resources.

In business terms looking for merger then growth from scratch.

Dilute purity of membership might be way forward.

For groups on ground that work the commitment of name change is one step too far.

Steve said Any further comments

John Smith Leeds plus been member long time been through few marketing strategies started 18 plus had a leaping lion logo. Plus. Popular logo but not every group used it. We then shambolically ended up with a tower logo poster design almost universally hated but some groups used it then the compass design that was a bit more popular.

Now have the 5 dots logo. Again not every group uses it or some have changed it. Nature of plus or our organisation its up to the individual part of the organisation of what we do.

Can change and adapt as we go along give it a try.

Steve move onto post of **internet co-ordinator**

Jeff Ray currently internet co-ordinator happy to carry on but as said previously wants a wider brief. Carry on and push forward the project been talking about but with the support of Steve and rest of NEC and any volunteers.

Vote on report

Proposer and Seconder needed

Proposed Leeds

Seconded Slough

Votes for acceptance of report

For 12

Against 2

Abstentions 2

Passed

Move onto the election of Internet co-ordinator

Any questions for Jeff as internet co-ordinator

Jeff asked to leave the room

Need a proposer and seconder for Jeff to restand as internet co-ordinator

Proposed Leeds seconded Slough

John Smith Leeds says vote for Jeff he has good ideas let him put them into action.

Formal second from Slough said Jeff needs support to get behind it with the project group

Voting strength 15

Votes for Jeff as internet co-ordinator 2020

For 13

Against 1

Abstentions 1

Carried.

Jeff Internet co-ordinator

14. Facility for National Debate

Facility for national debate Francis using projector

Who needs projector?

Future of the federation NAGM and 80th birthday celebrations

Social media who has control of the various social media that using and are they up to date and being used effectively

Couple of tenders for the 80th birthday celebrations

And right venue for a NAGM

Adrian and Ben had a lot of chasing to get peoples AGM monies.

Start with the 80th Birthday celebrations

Debate with us if this is the correct venue for NAGM should it be an overnight event or just a meeting only.

Adrian Barnard Didcot observer said essentially don't mind what people want but do want to know what people want. Complicated that it the 80th birthday and it sold out in 3 days for the 75th and lots needed to book other hotels.

What do we want for an AGM, should it be separate to AGM. If separate brings it back to what want for AGM.

Options discussed for the various venues

Additional to that do you want an AGM the original area lead did not have an AGM but everyone in that room wanted an AGM so it got put back in there.

Do you still want AGM

Where do you want AGM

Mark Hawkins Barnet observer

Taking the questions in reverse

The AGM the desirability of AGM is desirable, the ability of groups being able to participate with the NEC. Question around it is scale and duration. The number and groups can be done in an afternoon AGM. Mindful of Martins comment that representation because of the perceived cost of attending. Be better conference if more groups attend. Kings Lynn big group not here. Whatever do as conference going forward think of the costs. Seems expensive.

Solution that works for 5 and 10 years not just for next year.

Newent and George sounds good but an 80th party and conference can be separate thing.

Conference is forward looking.

Adam Redshaw Coventry delegate ideas about the 80th, the majority of members in one group Lincs Quest take what got for 80th and take to Cleethorpes or somewhere like that. Better than being in Coventry. Party celebration 80 people who might come to the evening do. Personally like to see a pass this is your life 18 plus. Recognise head office and that had staff. Its looking back, look at fashion etc. Because we look back does not mean we being negative but can aspire to. We can be big again its just how and when we get there. Need to aspire to.

Perhaps instead of AGM why not have a conference with motivational speakers will get more out of the event. TV celebrity, sports presenter etc. People will pay more.

Gerry Edwards Vice President

Do we need celebrate 80th we celebrated 75th.

Why we celebrating the 80th birthday.

Gerry said 75th went well. Maybe ones who came to 75th might not want go to 80th.

Need to think about it. Likes the conference idea in Grimsby but not for National as not accessible for all maybe just area level.

Newent fun to go to but hard to get there and no parking or public transport.

Like a venue that people can get to.

Had a day conference at Warwick had meeting in morning and then people went home.

It worked no one stayed the Friday night. Had really good attendance and it cheaper.

Cost has to be part of it.

Do we need an AGM we don't have to have an AGM. We agreed we did not have an AGM anymore.

Do we need an 80th. Do we need to go place that a day only. What sort of event do we want. We need to book it cant wait to last minute.

It's a major step what we go forward on.

Ian Crawshaw as normal not HGS in favour of keeping it. Will be sad to see AGM go. If not have evening event it will lose momentum of the event socially. Area are generous in recuperating costs for delegates to attend. Only have Martin from East Anglia.

If lost as an event be hard to get it back. IF do downsize. Most people have been many times before.

19 delegates reduced to 16 delegates

If lose NAGM as it is going down road hard to get back from.

Erik Bean Stevanage delegate membership dropped more then 10 percent

Likes the AGM and the ability to debate and discuss things together

Main focus for ideas. Also where will it be Midlands is good.

Having 80th should be separate event.

Lets have an AGM in the Midlands lets have a party somewhere keep eye on membership

Ben Allen NAGM hat the organiser lot of good things can see costings of events and what need to do in background, NEC partly subsidize will you still come to 2 day event.

Day event then people choose to stay over so NEC pay day costs not accommodation costs.

Will get a coffee if different venue.

Matthew Dickinson said

Area chairs are either funded by area or not funded.

National Chair, NFO, HGS, VPs etc funded by NEC.

Cost to NEC is 6 places around £500-£600

300 members at £20 so income around £6000 a 10th funds the AGM

Don't have to invite the delegates could have a glorified NEC meeting.

Adrian Barnard Didcot observer.

75 percent of room not impressed an opinion

Deciding venues at an NEC meeting either decide today or NEC will decide in 3 months time in May

Appreciate peoples input so can be informed choice so can get a better AGM

Ben Allen Stevenage observer

Do floor want tenders to go through the 4 venues

Dot Sallis Coventry delegate thinks it important to get an AGM and to get a say and it central to everyone.

Steve suggested straw poll

Top table allowed to take part in straw poll

To clarify straw poll if should have a NAGM in current format all day event with overnight or a morning or afternoon meeting.

Do you want a NAGM?

Voting strength 16 and top table allowed straw poll

Who in favour to continue NAGM in current format with option to stay overnight?

22 for

4 against

0 abstentions

Carried

Venues asking the 4 tenders to speak

Adrian Barnard

The current venue

Car parking and easy to get to on public transport

Feel guilty taking restaurant for day but they get paid for it

Excellent staff, reasonable rooms. Has advantage for organisers they know who talking to and what getting.

Another option is the Milton Heights hotel has own conference rooms and ability to stay overnight, restaurants and indoor swimming pool and sauna etc

Prices not much higher but not got prices yet.

Similar to Bens Milton Heights hotel deep in Southern area, walking distance from Adrians house.

Handing over to Ben or James

Midland area proposing to hold AGM at George hotel at Newent, Popular venue. Theme disco etc. Confirm prices to NEC meeting in May.

Ben mentioned Sketchley hotel central location about half hour from Coventry going north. Just off M6.

Figures: Day conference 11am – 5pm with own room option 3 course meal and overnight package
Enclosed room, wont disturb or take over restaurant. Unlimited refreshments, hot and cold buffet.

Slightly more expensive then Jacobean.

£30 per person. 2 course hot and cold buffet, refreshments etc

Unlimited coffees and cordials pastries and cakes etc.

Sample menus.

Set buffet whatever chef chooses in restaurant that day can cope with allergies.

Same prices as Jacobean for rooms.

Menu in evening is set menu

3 set courses £28

Second meat option £33

Same room 25 to 30 people.

Deposit £1000

Open to floor

Discussions

Jeff Ray question for proposals number of twin rooms to double rooms. Reduced capacity and increased costs.

Grange and Milton Hill hotels are lot larger then Jacobean and more suited to conferences lots of rooms

The George is 6 rooms

Asked about train stations

Manageable

Didcot hotel Adrian will drive people from station

Sketchley Francis suggests Nuneaton and Hinckley

Newent nearest is Gloucester and Ledbury

Gerry Edwards said the George does not have many rooms where will people stay. Accommodation around the town. Several locations around town. Narrow entrance to George have to park in Newent.

Saying in life better the devil you know. Staff remember us. If want tea and coffee can pay for it. Jacobean comfortable there.

Could move and find somewhere that does not really work.

Some people wont travel too far.

Ask Ben can they move to January cheaper.

First 6 weeks cheaper in year.

In reply to Jerry January costings but as NEC with WASH, Christmas it makes it very tight.

Mark Hawkins Barnet observer

Said George bring back memories been talked out of it because of shortage of rooms.

Tina Didcot asked do people want AGM separate to 80th Birthday celebrations

Straw poll

Who would want an 80th event in its entirety

16 for

General consensus should hold 80th event

Should it be separate or combined with AGM

Straw poll

Would you like combined with NAGM and 80th Celebrations

For 17

Against 0

Next question is Where going to have it?

Francis Wallington said should not make decision about venue need costs and people put forward tenders.

Jerry said need to Find out what places people wont go to

People need to think is there any wont go to for the AGM

Adrian Barnard Didcot observer keep things positive

Simply ask who would want to go to: X Y Z etc

What like to suggest straw poll can vote more then once

Newent

For 5

Sketchley Grange Leicester

For 22

Milton Grange nr Didcot

For 21

Jacobean Hotel Coventry

23

What voting strength for straw polls

29

Decision May NEC meeting

Steve calls meeting back to order

Francis Wallington 15 minutes for presentation

Look at the screen projector

Talk about using social media to advertise your plus group

Demonstrate the use of social media and the place in it today.

Disadvantages and advantages and the target market.

Assess performance of ad campaign on social media, what are our needs what do we do to support it.

Asked everyone to stand up

How many people use social media asked those who not to sit down

Number people who do not use it, in this room number of people who use it day to day

How many people use social media to promote local plus group or a business

Using fingers show how many social media do you use linked in, facebook, snap chat, whats app, messenger, tik tok,

Various amounts 5 6 and Adrian is 0.

Large proportiojn are using social media in various forms.

Take as representation of the larger population you will see the age range using wilder range of ways to communicate.

Smart phone use by age

Not interested in the 65 age range

Checking email, using smartphone

57% using social media and messagin people

Look at survey for 2018 the proportion using facebook.

10 year olds have smartphone

Logical to look at facebook how do we advertise on facebook.

Facebook likes.

Boost the number of likes boost potential numbers of new members

Advertising campaigns for website

Another campaign for likes for page

Target audience

The minute recordings run out at this point but from memory:-

15 Announcement of Election Results of National Chairman to serve from 1st March 20.

Steve

Announcement of Election Results of National Officers to service from 1st March 20 NC 16.20 – 16.25

Honorary General Secretary:- Vacant

National Finance Officer:- James Oliver

National Activities Officer:- Ben Allen

National Public Relations Officer: - Vacant

National Internet Co-ordinator: - Jeff Ray

National Publications Officer/Plus News Editor:- Vacant

NEC Administrator:- Rhianna

17. National Chairman's address

From memory think Steve thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

18. Election of Honorary Officers

18.1 Independent Examiner of the 2020 Accounts

Katie Hawkins

18.2 Vice Presidents

Ian Crawshaw and Adrian Barnard

19. Any Other Urgent Business (not Promotion of Events)

20. Announcement of the Date of the Annual General Meeting 2021

Saturday 20th February 2021

21 Presidential Closing Address by Vice President

22 Closure of the meeting by the National Chairman

