

National federation of Plus Areas

18th Annual general meeting
Held Saturday 19th February 2022
Jacobean hotel Coventry

In attendance:

Steve Rolfe (National Chairman)
James Oliver (National Finance Officer)
Ben Allen (National Activities Officer)
Jeff Rea (National Internet Co-ordinator)
Erica knight (Honorary General Secretary)
Rhianna Wright (NEC Administrator)
John Smith
Adam Redshaw
Matthew Dickinson (NTAC Chair)
Martin Posner (ASE Chair)
Ian Crawshaw (VP)
Francis Wallington
Alison Cumbers
Dotti Sallis
Lis Buller
Geoff Buller
Andrea Rutter
Erik Bean
Liz gurnley
Mark Hawkins
Katie Hawkins
Mark Hewson
Kathy Morris

In attendance (remotely)

Adrian Barnard (VP)
Gerry Edwards (VP)
Tina Bunyan
Francesca Berkeley

Apologies for absence

Nicky Rolfe
Rothwell group

National chairman welcome and address

A minute silence was held for plus members / former members who had passed away during the year

Steve Rolfe thanked everyone for coming and hoped storm Eunice did not cause too many issues with journeys.

Vice Presidents address (IC)

Good to see a number of you, and also good to see some new faces.
Welcome to our remote attendees also!
Other VPs are attending remotely
BA has catering arrangements in hand

NAGM in person for the first time in two years. 2021 was held remotely. Please try to respect the hybrid nature of the meeting. Noise may be amplified.

There are motions and items to discuss. IC is hoping for a good event. AB has promised there will be wine, but IC can't drink it all himself. Have a good Conference, and a healthy debate.

Election of tellers

Ben Allen was elected as teller. This was done by a show of hands

Establishment of a voting strength

Voting strength established at 16 originally including those attending remotely, and was later adjusted to 17.

Acceptance of the minutes of the 13th annual general meeting

(Held over zoom on the 20th February 2021)

Points of accuracy
None reported

Acceptance of the minutes

Proposed by Lincs quest

Seconded by Coventry

CARRIED

Matters arising Theron

None

Presentation and acceptance of the federation's accounts for the year 2021 (JO)

Very quiet year. We received £1.68 in interest

No income from area levies this year

We paid an outstanding domain name cost from 2020

We have registered with the information commissioners office (ICO)

In response to a question from Southern area, JO confirmed that the federations money is held in a business reserve account.

FW asked whether many risk assessments had been submitted. JO confirmed he had received risk assessments from several groups.

Acceptance of the federation's reports for the year 2021

Proposed: Didcot

Seconded: Leeds

CARRIED

Officer Reports

1. National Chairman
2. Honorary General Secretary
3. National finance officer
4. National activities officer
5. National training officer
6. National publications officer
7. Internet officer
8. NEC Administrator

There were no questions regarding any of the above other than the Internet Officers report (7)

KH asked If JR could deliver his report as it was only put on website overnight

Questions regarding the national internet officers report

JO - where is current website hosted? It was confirmed that it is currently at 'hosted developments 'but will be moved soon

FW - will JR be able to offer any assistance with Facebook (Lichfield are using it but struggling) JR confirmed that Facebook is not his area of expertise. Others in Plus may be able to help. Role of national site is separate.

JC - suggested JR tries TikTok, but JR not sure what it is. However he replied that social media is a big thing, and it requires more than one person so a committee could be formed

SR - commented that we had an opportunity during the pandemic to increase our social media presence. Some groups may have done so, but others may be floundering.

It was agreed that we vote to accept the officer reports 'en bloc'

CARRIED

Area reports.

NTAC

MIDLAND

ASE

SOUTHERN

These were received in advance of the meeting

It was agreed that we vote to accept the area reports 'en bloc'

CARRIED

Election of National officers to serve from 1/3/2022

Chair

Matthew Dickinson was proposed by Didcot and seconded by Barnet MD - the last few years have been hard, but we have a real chance to grow the federation. Has been NTAC chair for several years. he thinks there is a need to get out there and run quality events. If elected MD plans to visit as many groups as possible

FW - how many years have you been NTAC chair and why now?

MD - has been chair of NTAC for 12 years. Feels he has done as much with NTAC as he can. Has learned a lot in that time, and wants to stretch himself outside of comfort zone.

AB - go for it, will be a fantastic experience

It was agreed that this vote would be taken by a show of hands rather than ballot

Proposer (AC Didcot)

MD has been deputy chair for some time. Natural progression.

Secunder (KH Barnet)

MD has been an excellent area chair. he is not a yes man. Has mind of his own. But listens to others and takes advice. Does not want to lose him from NTAC but says 'Vote for this man'

Vote - accepted by majority

MD hopes to live up to everyone's expectations. Let's try to grow federation in the years ahead

National finance officer

Alison Cumbers stood as NFO and her nomination statement was submitted in advance

Proposed- Hillingdon

Seconded - Leeds

AR (Hillingdon) thinks AC would make a good NFO. Has done it before and does finance at work

JS (Leeds) can confirm that AC would make an excellent NFO. She produces good reports and has previously been Northern Area treasurer.

AB endorses AC as NFO - she did a good job with HMRC

Votes for 13

Abstentions 3

CARRIED

Honorary general secretary

Erica Knight was proposed by Stevenage and seconded by Coventry

Erica has enjoyed the last year. Any suggestions please let her know.

Proposer - Stevenage (EB) Erica has been good and thorough. Done well please re-elect

Secunder - Coventry (DS) provided a formal second

Votes - 16

UNANIMOUS

National training officer

Adam Redshaw stood for the post

Proposed - Coventry

Seconded - Didcot

AR decided to stand at the last minute. Has been running activities and this has given him confidence to run own business and speak in public. Running plus is a big job and requires skills. AR has gained skills through plus and would like to help others.

AB also endorses AR.

EB (Stevenage) thinks it would be great to have a National training officer again. People who need the training most are the ones least likely to attend

Proposer - Coventry (DS) finds AR to be very inspirational

Secunder - Didcot. AC gave formal second

Votes for 17

UNANIMOUS

NEC administrator

Rhianna Wright re-stood for this position

Proposed by Stevenage

Seconded by Didcot

EB – appreciates RWs work which is of a good standard. AC provided a formal second

Vote - accepted by majority

National Activities Officer

Ben Allen wishes to stand

Proposed - Coventry

Seconded- Didcot

BA thanked all for attending today. Spring holiday is also due to be well attended but spaces are available

AB endorses BA. He has worked his a** off!

Proposer Coventry (DS) BA has been doing brilliantly- vote for Ben
Secunder Didcot (AC) Ben runs all these events. Doing a great job.

Vote - CARRIED

National internet officer

Steve Rolfe and Jeff Rea wish to jointly stand

JR is happy to continue and his report covered progress already made

SR is happy to join Jeff and help move things along

Vote would be for a 'team position'

There were two parts to this vote

Part one - proposal to allow two individuals to stand jointly for a post

Proposer- Stevenage

Seconded- Leeds

Votes for - 13

CARRIED

Part two - votes for SR and JR

Proposer- Leeds

seconded- Solihull

Votes for - 15

CARRIED

National public relations officer

JS would like the role to be redefined to incorporate social media coordinator. He would like to stand if this could be agreed.

JS has experience as was plus news editor for some years. Is not an expert in social media but he runs two Facebook pages and can do websites. He has a YouTube channel and is active on Twitter. JS would be willing to assist individual groups if they needed help or training. Could also team up with AR to run training. JS likes the idea of free Google pages.

AB thinks a weekend training event for social media could be useful

Proposer- (FW) Lichfield

This is one experienced person. We need to engage and encourage him. Please vote for JS

Secunder - (AC) Didcot

JS has done a lot for groups, areas and National. He will get plus as big as 'spice'

Votes for - 16

UNANIMOUS

Facility for National Debate

(General Discussion around recruitment and retention)

EB – It's great to come together but we need new people,

Can we do something about this?

New members night?

Go back to your groups and make them bigger

JO – We need to look at 30s 40s age group Look at activities – traditional group night, Also retention is important.

Adrian - sounds easy. Didcot has previously grown through putting on events that people enjoy? For example Didcot grew bigger on theatre tickets. (Gone by wayside since COVID)
Oxford grew via Gaming Club.

JS (Leeds) Retention.

Yes we do need to retain members but recruitment should be focus for every group.

AB. Remembering the days of 8 to 9 thousand members. Back then the average member stayed less than a year.

New external website Its urgent !!(JO)

FW. Recently went for walk in Belper. 15 people turned up - power of facebook!

Remember to Reflect your community

JR is also involved in Outdoor activities group

Membership fee £25

Rule that all members had to put on events

People hated it

Reduced membership fee to £10 - people said madness

Could now have 1000 members

There was a discussion around the age range – yes we do recruit from 18

Facility for national debate

1. Motion to adopt a single membership system

This was proposed by midlands area (Mark Hewson)

The NEC is mandated to look at solutions for creating a single national membership database

We currently have circa 330 members. Area lead means currently not as we don't know who other areas members are. It could be good to amalgamate into one single system. Membership data would be

- more accurate
- more visible
- more controllable

Questions arose as follows;

Should there be a members only area on website? Online renewals? GDPR?

AB- Would there be a post of National Membership Officer? MHew - Could do or could have 4 officers

KH had several comments

- NTAC still uses a spreadsheet
- She knows who is a member
- Wouldn't want to do it for 330 members
- Not sure members area would be used.
- Could areas veto memberships?

JR- Worth noting there are existing packaging to do clubs. Katie made good points but packages address these. Don't need to reinvent the wheel.

EB- Agrees with KH points

- What about life membership?
- What about people we don't want to join?
- Vote against this motion today.
- We can do the private area thing anyway

MHawk- Cost & spreadsheets kept by KH. We are very careful with the data backed up. Very secure on data. Vote against. Risk exceeds benefit.

This is potentially a big project. Might not be possible in a year

JR- Just to say some existing systems will generate a card you can show on your phone

It was acknowledged that some would still want printed cards.

Votes for 11

Against 5

Abstention 1

CARRIED

2. Whether the NAGM quorum should be determined by a group count or a delegate count (discussion)

This was proposed by Erik Bean on behalf of NTAC

Quorum is calculated at 2 x delegates per group

Equal greater than half plus one?

Can we think of anything better?

FW- SR has trade union experience.

How do they establish quorum?

Depends on the org and the rulebook.

Some will fine branches for not sending a delegate.

AB - People need encouragement. Group of 2 members still has 2 delegates. They should be encouraged to vote at AGM

AJ - Cost of event can put people off. Why not do in a village hall in new town then people can get out in the afternoon / evening?

DS – We have become complacent. It was Previously sold as an exciting event

JR- Future of AGM is hybrid

- Can do better
- Needs big screen

FB - members need to be aware they can join in online

AB - We must improve comms. Not everyone on Facebook

If not quorate, suggestion is that we go ahead but if any objections decisions can go to next NEC meeting.

Election of Vice Presidents

The conference voted 'en bloc' for the following to re-stand as Vice Presidents for the year 2022

- Gerry Edwards
- Adrian Barnard
- Ian Crawshaw

Votes for - UNANIMOUS

Independent Examiner of the Federations Accounts for 2022/23

Katie Hawkins agreed to be the Independent Examiner of the federation's accounts for the year.

Proposed - Stevenage

Seconded - Lichfield

KH - Last year there was a concern re not being independent but as JO knows nothing is got away with

- EB- Katie is brilliant at this please vote for her
- FW provided a formal second

Votes for 14+ 2

UNANIMOUS

AOB

RW was given the 'Linda street 'award as she would not be available at receive it at the dinner later.

Meeting closed