



National Federation of Plus Areas

8th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held at the Beverley Hotel on Saturday 22nd February 2014

The Deputy National Chairman Matthew Dickinson opened the meeting at 10.10 asking the conference delegates to be upstanding for; National Chairman - Mike Clarkson, Honorary General Secretary - Erica Knight, National Finance Officer - James Oliver and Vice Presidents Gerry Edwards and Francis Wallington.

1 Chairman's Welcome to Delegates

Mike Clarkson welcomed the delegates to the conference, said important decision will be taken at this conference, but keep the arguments to the conference and not the dinner afterwards.

2 The Presidential Address by Vice President Francis Wallington

Delegates, Honorary Life Members, Members and Guests welcome to the 8th Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Plus Areas. We are 73 years young. We are vibrant and brimming with energy to realise our potential.

For some it has been a year of dramatic change in terms of career, marriage and becoming a parent. Whilst this is a normal expectation for any Plus member, occasionally we lose a member by dying

Let us remember friends who are no longer with us.

Therefore, as part of the welcome, I will ask Liz Buller plus anyone else to say the names of the members who have passed away and anything special or memorable about them to a microphone so it can be recorded.

Liz Buller spoke to the conference about the members of Lincs Quest.

Thank you very much

Let us welcome each other

Would you please stand and greet people – moving round the room and hugs are welcome.

Thank you very much.

The NEC has worked together over the past year to face the challenges presented to them. I know that personally some have fulfilled their roles despite unemployment, low income and loss of a parent.

The last AGM agreed that those who are members were aged 18 to 60 without formal division. This presents questions concerning who do we market to and how do we encourage development and growth?

Prepared by Erica Knight

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How do we answer the needs of the two extremes of this range, is there a middle ground for sharing and fun?

Well, I welcome the opening of new group and existing members finding the energy to develop existing groups.

Has the journey of changing the organisation to be robust, providing services to its member groups and reflective of the world it exists in, - finished. Not likely whilst we still breathe and agree to collaborate in this forum.

Some questions for you to think about

Do we have a management structure and constitution that is flexible to situation and releases the potential that we have?

Are we encouraging learning and development of the person and group?

Are we funding ourselves correctly to fulfil expectation and delivery?

Does the growth of social media mean that members and new groups could be anywhere in the British Isles?

I am not sure about you, but I use my experiences from being an Eighteen Plus or Plus member all the time. Whether it be stewarding a concert in Lichfield or operating a water point in a Welsh Mountain race. Currently I am safety officer for a Vintage Equipment Society, which means I am organising a festival of

Transport involving Traction Engines, Lorries, Tractors and the odd Shire horse. It is an absurd form of lunacy that I am addicted to, thanks to Plus.

I charge you to realise that you are amongst friends. Differences, arguments and disputes are part of human relationships. Follow the rules of debate, respect the person who presents contrary arguments and enjoy this meeting.

Welcome to this Annual General Meeting

3 Election of Tellers

3.1 Nominations of Volunteers from the Observers

Richard Thomas (HLM) and Tina Bunyan (Didcot) were elected as Tellers.

Proposed by Hillingdon

Seconded by Solihull

3.2 Determining Voting Strength

The Voting Strength of the conference was established as 28

4 Election of Ballot Counters

4.1 Nomination of two Volunteers from the Observers

Mark Hewson (Solihull)

Katie Hawkins (Barnet)

5 Apologies for Absence

There was no apologies for absence received

No Apologies - Nick Grant is on the Way!

6 Acceptance of the minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held at the Beverley Hotel on 20th April 2013

6.1 Points of Accuracy

Erik Bean (Stevenage Plus) The membership fee was reduced to £20 after the AGM and was not back dated to January 2013 - Corrina Teale (Sutton Coldfield Delegate) confirmed that correct course which the NEC agreed. James Oliver (NFO) apologies for the slip in the minutes.

6.2 Acceptance of the minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the conference, were proposed by the following groups,

Proposed - Stevenage

Seconded - Didcot

Carried

7 Matters Arising Thereon

No matters arising

8 Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Reports for the year 2013

National Chairmans Report

Corinna Teale - Sutton Delegate I want to clarify the Sheffield closing comment in the report.

HGS Report

Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield) asked Erica Knight total membership as through the reports, Erica responded with the total membership stood about 300 members. Corrina Teale (Sutton Delegate) asked for the discrepancy of memberships figures to be investigated.

Area Chairs Report

Anglia and South East Report

Jeff Buller (Lincs Quest Delegate) ask Martin Posnor about the difference in membership figure between last year and 2013, Martin was unable to provide answer to Geoff. Richard Thomas mention an error in the figure for membership should be 69. Trevor Eley (Redbridge) - Anglina and South East Area now have a diary keeper.

Joan - 5 memberships sent - Martin - All life members now received.

North Thames and Chiltern Report

Jeff Buller (Lincs Quest Delegate) Member difference slight increase

Voting Strength is now 27

Midland Report

Trevor Eley (Redbridge) can you clarify what the large article in newspaper was, Richard clarified Trevor question, saying, that a local paper rang and said can we do a feature. Tina Bunyan (Slough Observer) Coleshill Group, it that a new group, Richard Haydon (Midland Area Chair) said that yes they are a new group. Coleshill Quest have met twice, they meet monthly, 4 people have come down.

Voting Strength is now 28

Southern Area Report

There was no questions for the Southern Area report

The Reports were accepted enbloc

Proposed - Newbury

Seconded - Abingdon

Carried unanimously

9 Presentation of the Federations Accounts for the year 2013

Trevor Eley (Redbridge) Can we have more of a breakdown of the NEC/GPC expenses. James Oliver after finding the figures gave Trevor and the conference an outline, Trevor query the large expenses figure in the report. James gave a response, Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield Delegate) asked if the expenses figures are not broken down between Training and other types of activities. James said that he had not broken down the expenses, the were expenses are all lump together, not split between the different activities. Harry Stock, Give figures in documentation beforehand - James OK. Are mileage expenses put against the events or NEC expenses, they are put in accounts as NEC expenses but they will be linked to the event.

Proposed - Lincs Quest

Seconded - Solihull

Auditors Report prepared by Honorary Auditor

No questions for Katie Hawkins report was issued

Motion to accept the accounts and reports for the year 2013 as presented

Proposed - Stevenage

Seconded - Didcot

Carried Unanimously

10 Election of the National Chairman to serve from the 1st March 2014

Nominee - Michael Clarkson

Proposed - Solihull

Seconded - Chiswick

Voting Strength Re-established as 28

He commented, thanks all, we have a long road ahead but we have to stick together.

11 Election of National Officers to Serve the Federation from 1st March 2014 to 28 February 2015

11.1 Honorary General Secretary

No Nominations

11.2 National Finance Officer

Nomination - James Oliver

Proposed - Hillingdon

Seconded - Solihull

Elected

11.3 National Training Officer

No nominations

11.4 National Activities Co-ordinator

No Nominations

11.5 National Public Relations Officer

No Nominations

11.6 National Internet Co-ordinator

1 Nomination - John Smith

Adam Redshaw (Coventry Delegate) Can we put Google Analytics on the website, John replied, yes it is already there. Leo Glover (Andover and Newbury delegate) ask when will the new website go live, John Smith replied in about 3 months. Christine Ticehurst - (Kings Lynn Delegate) Are you planning on giving groups access, John replied, yes logins will be available.

Proposed - Sutton Coldfield

Seconded - Coventry

Elected

11.7 National Publications Officer/Plus News Editor

No nominations

11.8 NEC Administrator

1 Nomination - Joan Clifford

Joan says she was trying to gain new experiences and she would like to carry on! Thank you to Erica for helping me.

Corrina Teale - Sutton Delegate - Of the NEC meeting minutes, how many have you typed? Joan replied 3. Katie Hawkins (Barnet Observer) asked if the NEC meeting minutes but put on the Website. Chris Mann (Redbridge Observer) Can we have a summary of NEC meetings ASAP after meeting - Matt Dickinson has been doing this sporadically. Tina Bunyan (Didcot Observer) - Joan have you considered being HGS? Joan said not yet, maybe in the future.

Proposed Kings Lynn

Seconded Chiswick

Elected

Carried by Majority

Richard Thomas (HLM) Are the two positions needed HGS/NEC Admin? The Federation isn't large enough. All committee need a Secretary, you haven't got an effective National Committee.

Gerry Edwards (Vice President) I agree with everything Richard has said.

12 Motions for Debate

Adam Redshaw - Coventry Delegate

Procedural Motions to change to order of the Agenda, change 12.1 to 12.5

12.3 to start the 12.2, 12.4, 12.5 then 12.1

Carried and the order with which the motions were presented was changed

12.3 Southern area proposes that we dismantle the National Tier and that includes all NEC meetings and replace then two open meetings which will be organized and funded by the areas (75% Majority Required)

Nicky Thomas of Southern Area now wish to amend the motion. Now 50% Majority required.

Proposed by Abingdon

Seconded by Sutton Coldfield

Carried Unanimously

Amended Motion read out.

Southern area proposes that the NEC look into dismantling Nation in favour of 2 National Bi-Agms

Richard Thomas (HLM) Can we have clarification of the motion, what do they actually want?

John Smith (Leeds) Can we debate now?

Corrina Teale (Sutton Delegate) The motion can't be amended as it changes the meaning of the motion.

Leo Glover (Andover) Can we move to the vote.

Carried

Motion Carried

Reestablishment of Voting Strength = 29

Midland Area Motion

Midland Area mandate the NEC to investigate returning back to National Lead with the following parameters to be considered;

A) Single tier structure culminating in a full National Committee to be made up as follows;

B) Online payments of membership including the option of direct and/or via Groups

C) Possibility of buying/renting accommodation for head quarters to be re-established

Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield) presented the motion on Richard Haydon's behalf. Richard Thomas (HLM)

asked the conference does PLUS need the amount of committee officials it seems to have to get elected

mentioning 4 chairman's, 4 administrators and 4 treasurers along with other positions which each area needs to fill each year, can PLUS keep this up.

Motion Carried

12.4 To amend the constitution such that:

Motions amending the constitution may only be moved at an AGM or EGM; Motions not amending the constitution may be moved at an NEC meeting, or an AGM or EGM. This requires the following amendments to the National Constitution:

delete part 7.2.3 delete part 8.3

replace the whole of part 8.6.2 with:

8.6.2 Only motions not amending the constitution may be moved at an NEC meeting other than a National Annual General Meeting or a National Extraordinary General Meeting.

8.6.3 Motions amending the constitution may only be moved at a National Annual General Meeting or National Extraordinary General Meeting.

delete parts 8.6.4 to 8.6.7 delete part

13.1.1.3 and to the National Standing

Orders: delete part 5.4.9 delete part 6.2.2

14.45 – 15.00 delete part 6.2.3

delete part 6.2.5

Proposed: NTAC

(75% Majority Required)

Motion Carried

12.5 To give the NEC the sole power to set the area levy.

This requires that part 4.2.1 of the National Constitution be amended to read

“The annual membership fee for Member Areas shall be determined by the NEC from time to time”

Proposed: NTAC

75% Majority Required

Motion Lost

12.1 Motion – Living Within Our Means

To encourage National to live within its means and to encourage the use of electronic meetings technology, it is proposed to amend the constitution such that:

The total cost of NEC and related expense expenditure does not exceed £1000 per year.

National does not spend more than it's income in any given year without prior consent of a general meeting of the organisation.

This requires the following amendments to the National Constitution:

Delete part 4.3.3.

Existing parts 4.3.4. to 4.3.10. will be numerically incremented to read 4.3.6. to 4.3.12. so as to create a space for the insertion of the following new parts:

4.3.3. The NEC will ensure that the total annual cost of NEC expenses, including all travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses, whether general or associated with a specific event, and including those of any committee appointed under Articles 6.2, 6.3 and 6.8, is limited to £1000 per year.

4.3.4. The NEC will ensure that total national expenditure shall not exceed the amount received from the Area levy and other national level income, without such additional expenditure having been agreed in advance by a majority of the Areas after due debate at their Area meetings or by a National AGM or National EGM.

4.3.5. All moneys raised by or on behalf of the Federation shall be applied to further the Purposes of the

Federation and for no other purpose PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Federation or the repayment to members of the NEC or of any committee appointed under Articles 6.2, 6.3 and 6.8 of reasonable out of pocket expenses, not exceeding the annual total laid down in 4.3.3

Proposed: Hillingdon Seconded: Stevenage

75% Majority Required

Jeff Rea from Hillingdon Plus proposed the motion to conference,

Motion Lost

13. Facility for National Debate

13.1 Plus Spring Holiday

James Oliver and John Smith gave the conference a short talk about proposed Spring Holiday in April, at Brean, gave some of the highlights of the weekend, and ask members, to support the holiday. John Smith said that there were still places available at Brean.

Prepared by Erica Knight

Erik Bean (Stevenage Delegate) questioned whether the democratic processes of the organisation were being best served by the NAGM and NEC meetings being held in the West Midlands. Showings of hands indicated that the vast majority of those present lived both to the south and to the east of the NAGM venue. Erik suggested that the Northampton / Milton Keynes area may better suit the wider membership. There was some disagreement over any possible cause and effect of the meetings being held in the Midlands and the majority of the national posts being held by Midland Area members. It was suggested that NEC meetings could be held at various venues around different parts of the country.

14 Announcement of Election Results of National Chairman to serve from 1st March 2014

15 Announcement of Results of Election Results of the National Officers to serve from 1st March 2014

Honorary General Secretary –No nominations

National Finance Officer - James Oliver Elected

National Training Officer – No nominations

National Activities Coordinator – No nominations

National Public Relations Officer – No nominations

National Internet Coordinator – John Smith Elected

National Publications Officer/Plus News Editor

NEC Administrator – Joan Clifford Elected

16. National Chairman's Address

Mike said, there is a long road ahead, hopefully if we stick together we can achieve whatever we want.

17 Election of Honorary Officials

17.1 Independent Examiner of the 2013 Accounts

The NEC proposed that Katie Hawkins of Barnet Plus be nominated

Elected

17.2 Vice Presidents

Conference delegates were unsure about the voting both officials in block with some delegates asking to the vote to spilt. A group proposed splitting the nominations of both Gerry and Francis. Which was seconded.

Vote to be split for Vice President Elections

Carried

Francis Wallington and Gerry Edwards were both re-elected as Vice Presidents

Richard Thomas (HLM) told conference that the just got away with this time, however next time the Federation might not be so lucky, urged the conference not to do it again.

18 Any Other Urgent Business

No other Business

19 Announcement of the Date of the Annual General Meeting 2014 February 2015

20 Presidential Closing Address by Vice President Francis Wallington

Francis gave a closing speech

21 Closure of Meeting by the National Chairman

Close of Meeting 17.05.

