

# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PLUS AREAS

## 19<sup>TH</sup> Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

Held At the Didcot Civic Hall

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### Attendees:

Stevenage	Erik Bean	NTAC	
Stevenage	Liz Gormley	NTAC	
Barnet	Mark Hawkins	NTAC	
Barnet	Katie Hawkins	NTAC	
South Bucks	Steve Rolfe	Southern	
Didcot	Faye Bunyan	NTAC	
Didcot	Russell Forester	NTAC	
Slough	Cath Turk	NTAC	
Slough	Lewis Hodgetts	NTAC	
Hillingdon	Andy Rutter	NTAC	
Solihull	James Oliver	Midland	
	Francis		
Lichfield	Wallington	Midland	
Lincs			
Quest	Lis Buller	Midland	Zoom
Lincs			
Quest	Geoff Buller	Midland	Zoom
Coventry	Adam Redshaw	Midland	
Hillingdon	Jeff Rae	NTAC	
Rothwell	Brian Whitaker	Midland	Zoom
	Francesca		
Redbridge	Barclay	ASEA	Zoom

#### 1. Chairman's Welcome to Delegates

Welcome to the AGM for the National Federation of Plus Areas, hopefully we'll have a productive meeting, we have 1 motion on the Agenda, several interesting topics for National Debate that hopefully we will take something from them and go forward and grow the federation, it's good to see people here, people do value the AGM as an event. It is good to see people here on Zoom today, I prefer face to face meeting but Zoom has a place.

## **2. The Presidential Address by Vice Presidents – Gerry Edwards**

Good morning and Welcome, it's great to come back and see all of you as last year I was in the sun in Gran Canaria. It's good to see some new faces who haven't been to this event before. It's probably the first time at an AGM we have had a breakfast laid on (or 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast for some of us!) Thanks for Adrian, Tina and Ben for putting that on.

The purpose of today is to get together to review our past year of Plus, perhaps the first year of total Covid recovery and move forward to 2023 to work out where we are at, where we want to be and how we are going to do it.

There are a number of strategic questions to think about today and hopefully some good debate around them. Debate is very important; it is important that every person's view in this room is counted. If you have a view, please come and say, even if it is only a few words, it's vital we all engage in the discussion. If you are going to move forward, we need to move on harmoniously and all areas and groups feel included. If they don't agree with their answer, at least they have had their input.

It's really nice to see people engaged and the energy flowing. Take part in today and we can plan our way ahead as things have to change and need to recognize that evolution takes place, whether you want it to happen or not, things do not stay stationary. In the next 3 or 4 years, there is going to be a lot of evolution in society, in the country and the world and we have to grow with it.

Don't just think we have always done it that way, let's continue with that way as that doesn't work.

Welcome to the new faces, if you have any questions, just put your hand up and say I don't understand.

Have a great meeting and engage.

## **3. Election of Tellers**

Adrian Barnard and Ben Allen were elected by a show of hands.

### **3.1 Determining Voting Strength**

Voting Strength 17

## **4. Election of Ballot Papers**

Adrian Barnard and Ben Allen were elected by a show of hands

## **5. Apologies for absence**

Kath Good, Southern area, Chris Melloy and Julia Toms Lichfield

## **6. Acceptance of 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Jacobean Hotel Coventry**

### **6.1 Points of Accuracy**

Erik Bean Stevenage Delegate, Liz's surname is Gormley and Francesca's is Barclay

Votes For 16

Abstention 1

Carried Nem con

## **7. Matters Arising Thereon**

No matters arising

## **8. Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Reports for the year 2022**

Anglian and South East Report

Francis Wallington Lichfield Delegate – How did you resolve the issue of the dormant bank account.

We had to give them form of ID again and send ID off and then they said account was ok but it did take a few months

Kent Plus were very active last year, where are they now?

They meet twice a month and some of them did come to WASH. I'll try and find out and let you know as I have not heard from them in a while.

Southern Area Report

James Oliver Solihull Delegate – Do you have many membership enquires through your website?

Steve Rolfe, no we haven't had any enquiries.

It was asked if the 80ish and Spring Holiday accounts could be seen

Katie Hawkins Independent Examiner - In previous years, I have produced accounts for all events as these haven't been done but now I only audit the Finance officers' accounts. The worth is not now shown in the accounts, just the bank balances, it's just a different way of showing it.

### **Internet Coordinator Report**

Steve Rolfe – South Buck Delegate

In my last year as National Chairman, we had several enquires through the National Website and I don't think this information was passed on to the area chairs. Have we had many enquiries in the last year?

Jeff Rea – Internet Coordinator.

We have had 323 visitors who have looked at over 1624 pages so that is quite good. About 3% fill in the membership form, which doesn't sound much but compared to commercial sites, that's very good. We have had loads of enquiries which were Spam that has been dealt with and we are getting genuine enquiries, we have had about 12 which I have passed on to the Area Chairs.

I thought there was a Southern Area one, but I might be wrong on that.

Steve Rolfe South Bucks

We want to quantify how these enquiries are being received. Via the National website or another website, I thought you were using a test website.

Jeff Rea - The enquiries are coming from [www.18plus.org.uk](http://www.18plus.org.uk). That is a landing page that gives people the choice of the members website or the marketing website. The form to fill in is on the marketing part.

The URL is [www.18plus.org.uk](http://www.18plus.org.uk)

Judy Mander joined as an Observer

Francis Wallington Lichfield Delegate Where are risk assessments routed to and who is checking them.

Alison Jones NFO – I haven't received any risk assessments since last March, they might be going to an email I don't have access to.

James Oliver Solihull Delegate, the Plus Risk Assessments group is still in use, but I don't think any have been submitted in the last 12 months.

Ben Allen NAO just an overview of the Activities bank accounts, Spring Holiday made a surplus of £1679, AGM £90.50, 80ish £235.01. The sheets are here if anyone wants to look at them.

Proposer for the reports Solihull Seconded Lichfield

Votes for acceptance of the reports 16

Against 1

Passed by Majority

## **9. Presentation and Acceptance of the Federation Accounts for the year 2022**

Francis Wallington – Lichfield Delegate, normally there is some narrative to the accounts. Can you make some narrative? Alison Jones there was a narrative published.

Mark Hawkins Barnet Delegate – Why aren't the accounts on the National Website. Erica Knight HGS, they have all been sent out may just not be on the Website.

Nat West Account is now sorted.

The spreadsheet of the accounts was shown to the conference.

We have not had any contact from the Website Provider.

Steve Rolfe South Bucks Delegate – Is there a risk that we may lose the website if we are unable to contact the provider?

Jeff Rea Internet Coordinator – The provider has always been lax in contacting us. The website is PLAIN html which means its just text, both Mark and I have copies, so we will not lose it.

Francis Wallington – Lichfield Delegate Are the website addresses due for renewal? Jeff Rea said Mark Hewson has control of them, it is only a small expense.

Votes for Finance Report 10

Against 0

Abstention 7

Passed Nem con

## **10. Election of National Chairman to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Nominations

Matt Dickinson Proposer Mark Hawkins Barnet, Seconder James Oliver Solihull Delegate

Steve Rolfe South Buck Delegate Proposer Adam Redshaw Coventry Delegate Seconder Lewis Hodgetts Slough Delegate

Erica Knight Proposer Erik Bean Seconder Andrea Rutter Hillingdon Delegate

The nominees gave their speeches for National Chair

Questions from the floor

Ian Crawshaw VP Firstly I would like to say all 3 candidates are good candidates and personal friends of mine, I am happy whoever gets it, we'll get a good chairman come what may. I have 2 questions and I'll put both questions and I'll sit down. My first question is, if you don't get National Chairman would you consider standing for another position on the NEC, my second question is What would you do better than before.

Matt Dickinson – I have not considered other posts, if there were vacancies at the end of the process I would look to see if I could fill any of them, but this post would be my focus. I would try and enhance communication both with the top table, try and see if there are some tools, maybe teams or other packages that we can track things better and make sure everyone is engaged, that would be my major focus going forward.

Erica Knight – I may consider other posts on the NEC depending on what was available, obviously all positions are currently available. Communication needs to be better on all fronts, everybody should know everything.

Steve Rolfe – Whatever vacancies are available be it Thames Valley Region, Southern Area, the National tier here for as many years as I can remember really and probably some people may not want to see my face on the top tier and maybe give someone else the opportunity to have a go, I am happy to help out wherever possible, I have done in the past, and I am on the southern area committee as well. What would I do better, the other candidates have spoken about communication, is the key here but I think it's about bringing the federation together as a whole and reunite. During the pandemic, we've been looking at screen and we haven't really been socializing, we are a social organization and that's something we seem to have lost really and we need to try and bring the organization back together as a whole.

Erik Bean – You have all done this before, what did you learn from doing this before that you hadn't expected or what did you learn?

Steve Rolfe – I think it has given me confidence, looking back 40 years ago, I could never imagine, it's quite a small group of people here, I've managed to do it to 200 people and I still dread the whole situation, I think it's just confidence, I have the ability to talk to almost everybody now and feel quite confident walking into a pub and talking to the person sitting next to me as if I've known him all my life but I've just met then.

Matt Dickinson – The combination of being National chair for 1 year and Area chair for many years, it certainly gives you experience in chairing meetings and trying to find a common view point to make sure everyone's opinion are represented and trying to formulate a decisive result from the various opinions voiced, It's easy for the loudest person in the room to win the argument but hopefully over the years I have tried to make sure everyone has been heard.

Erica Knight – Listening to people and other viewpoints as well as my own Everyone has a right to their opinion. It has bought me confidence as well, Erica of 23 years ago would never have been able to do this.

Adam Redshaw – I'm interested to know, we all know as National Chair you don't really have much say in anything but the right National Chair, in the right way has a lot of power to influence the NEC and the member through communication and leadership. What are the candidate's personal vision for the future of Plus.

Erica Knight Horrible question, I feel the federation is very disjointed at the moment, we do need to work together more, using Midland area as an example, it seems very unmotivated so we would need to do something to change that. Group visits and try lots of different options and see what works best to be able to bring the federation forward.

Steve Rolfe – My vision is to bring people together, we have lacked that over the last few years and we really need to get that on board, equally we need to get on board with the issue of online presence, we are really lacking hence my question from earlier about the amount of contacts we are getting from the website and publicity. I know some people aren't too keen on us having an online presence, other have found it to their benefit, but I think it encourages the federation to wake up to the new technology and make better use of it. Being an IT person myself, that is something I would like to drive with the organization.

Matt Dickinson – I would like the federation to grow in both ways, face to face, it's still a very important element. I mean in my area there are quite a few groups that do very strong face-to-face weekly events and they in many ways are the traditional plus event and they do work. They have maintained members and, in some case, got new members through to door. That show a good solid weekly program is still the best way to maintain and grow members equally online has to be the way forward, Jeff's website has a lot of promise and we are getting enquires and so efforts need to be increased especially with the one presence and the other groups can look to the groups that are being successful face to face weekly events and see if there is anything they can take home from them.

Jeff Rea – Looking at the interest we are getting on the national website and where our enquiries are coming from, firstly we are getting some from people who are not near any existing group. Also, we are getting the weight of enquiries are from the far north where we haven't got much of a presence. What approach would the candidates to try to bring those people into the federation where we haven't got groups available.

Matt Dickinson - If there is a critical mass of people interested in an area that we don't cover. Nowadays we have a wealth of people who can try and advise these people remotely by Zoom or email. I think the reality is there is still some face-to-face needed in that case just to get everyone who is interested to know each other. We need to exploit that as much as we can and use the federations resources.

Steve Rolfe – Interesting question, certainly from my mind I think that are quite a few resources we can use like the Dear Deirdre line, where please can ring in and get into contact with us. Social Media presence is quite important, maybe try to get them to the nearest group. We don't have that vast presence in the North, we have that in southern area as well as we are quite divided by area and Basingstoke, Maidenhead and Abingdon, we understand the impact that has having to deal with potential contacts that are too far away for us to travel. It's an interesting point which need more discussion Nationally and with the NEC about how we adopt the approach in the future.

Erica Knight – I think I'm going to see if there are enough people to open a new group up there depending on where it is. Try to get them to put a new group together. Online is a good option to see that there are people out there.

James Oliver - We don't have much presence on the internet, do the candidates think we should be using some of the national reserves to do a Facebook advertising campaign on Facebook nationally.

Steve Rolfe – Being a member of the Labour Party, we do a bit of Facebook advertising and looking at the analytics it hasn't really worked in our favour, maybe with the current state of the Government we are getting more and more contact now, so we get the benefit. I think there are quite a few other things we could do in the form of posters or voluntary work getting our name out to the public. I'm just trying to figure out if it's worth ploughing that amount of money in with the return we are going to get or from other things. I do not know if you remember Terry Dixon, he does

Radio broadcasts in Reading and he gets quite a lot of people then following him on Facebook. That does not cost him anything.

Matt Dickinson – I think with experience from groups I have known, Facebook ads can be very variable in making results. Maybe if we were doing something in an area that didn't have any presence then it could be a tool to focus attention via drill downs. It's more of a tool for specific things rather than across the board.

Erica Knight – I think it's been tried and tested before and has not been very successful. That does not mean it is not an option for the future but right now we probably need to concentrate on anything really to try and get the word out there.

We do have a result, I think all candidates did brilliantly, Your National Chair for 2023/2024 is Steve Rolfe. To take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Steve Rolfe – Well that was quite a surprise, Thank you for voting for me and congratulations to the other candidates as well Matt and Erica for a sterling job.

## **11. Election of National Officers to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

### **11.1 HGS**

Erica Knight

Proposed Steve Rolfe

Seconder Erik Bean

Erica said there was nothing she would like better than to be HGS at this time. I've done it before so that's fine.

Erica was elected. Please can we reiterate to the top table, get reports back to me as soon as possible, in a timely manner, not the day before the AGM.

### **11.2 National Finance Officer**

Alison Jones

Proposer Solihull

Seconder Barnet

Alison said, I've worked in finance all my working life, I've been group treasurer, area treasurer and NFO.

Adrian Barnard – Alison is one of Plus's unsung heroes, she got money back off the tax man for the organisation and saved us nearly £1600 before as National Finance Officer.

Alison was elected as NFO.

### **11.3 National Training Officer**

Adam Redshaw

Proposer South Bucks

Seconded Solihull

Adam said, I didn't submit a report, but I am currently training officer, have I run an event? Not as such, have I submitted a report, no, are these good steads to be National Training officer, possibly not, however, what I have done is used online tool, mainly Facebook which does exclude some members and we created a Plus training group. We've done some online meetings, we have about 40 people in that group, I'm not sure how many of you guys know that I set that up, I've perhaps not promoted it as best as I could. Certainly, over the last few months I have not utilized the group as much as I could, these all sound like negative points and they probably are. I'm also a member of another organization about Public speaking and leadership, evaluation and moving forward and I think I divided my loyalties which meant I haven't had the time to focus on the training officer role. I need to decide which side of the fence my time and energy need to be, maybe I need to let that other organization go and put my efforts back into the organisation that helped me grow.

I think society, time and Plus has moved on and training events of the past may not be viable a bit like Francis Wallington!

We're seeing lots of events online, that may be the way forward to take the federation. Formally or socially. Running events is training.

Adam was elected Training Officer

#### **11.4 National Activities Officer**

Ben Allen

Proposer South Bucks

Secunder Stevenage

I'm another person who wouldn't have expected to have been up the front on a microphone, let alone to help run an event. It's great to see that we made a surplus on all events last year. Wash is now back at Searles, it would be lovely to be able to promote more events.

Steve Rolfe South Bucks Delegate

You've done a great job this year, as you have done every year. Have you thought about introducing another event to fill the gaps?

Ben said he was happy to run one but what would people like?

Ben Allen was elected as National Activities Officer

#### **11.5 National Public Relations Officer**

No nominations

#### **11.6 National Internet Officer**

Jeff Rea

Proposer Coventry

Secunder Didcot



I would like to continue with the things I am doing. The main thing is to continue to work on the site we have got so we have more enquiries and people visiting it. I'm working with John Smith and he's given me a few ideas.

I would like to see more of a national presence on social media and link that in with what we are doing on the national website.

James Oliver Solihull Delegate – When will go live for the new website will be not just a landing page?

Jeff said I'm confused by the question [www.18plus.org.uk](http://www.18plus.org.uk) has 2 links on there, the members site (Mark's website) and then the other link is the marketing site.

Steve Rolfe – South Bucks I think what James is talking about is the frustration caused by the time taken for this project. When I was National Chair in 2020, everyone was stuck in front of a screen, I said this is an ideal opportunity to increase our online presence. The whole project is so slow, it feels like it's not going to get to an end.

Jeff said I understand what Steve is saying, we have made some good progress and I'll try to get things moving a bit quicker.

Erik Bean – Stevenage Delegate Last night when I got your report, I put it out on the Stevenage WhatsApp group. 1 comment was about the pictures that you have used, it's like hanging a picture frame with the pictures that came in it. Also, someone who works in a Local Authority said there are Public Website accessibility standards coming in that this website does meet and we should be. I still don't really get what this website is for. I share the frustration with Steve.

Jeff said the pictures are illustrative for the moment so they will be changed. A lot of the time I have put in has been researching the content which does seem to be working. Accessibility Standard is something we will be working on in the current year.

Jeff was elected as Internet Coordinator

### **11.7 National Publications Officer/Plus New Officer**

No nominations

### **11.8 NEC Administrator**

Ian Crawshaw is happy to do it in an informal basis as still wants to be Vice President.

## **12 Motions for Debate**

12.1 That each membership secretary is to compile a redacted membership list (Name, Membership Number, Group and expiry date) monthly and submit to the National Finance officer via secure cloud storage and that the National Finance Officer will compile a combined Membership database (accessible only through the NFO. Proposed by NEC

Brian – Rothwell Delegate Can someone clarify what the need for this is.

Matt Dickinson – The motion itself is a mandate from last year's AGM, I think the intention was to compile a database to use in Publicity or Marketing, having taken that to the areas the mood was that that isn't a suitable use of the database. This is the level of disclosure that people are happy for areas to disclose to National.

Brian – How does that sit with GDPR regulations

Matt Dickinson – On the membership form there is a tick box to for people to say they are happy for their data to be processed for the purposes of their membership. The rationale is just to check memberships to meet GDPR.

Matt Hawkins – Barnet Delegate I feel that this is appropriate use of data and the methodology for getting it is something we put forward at an area meeting. Event organizers do need to know who is a member.

Steve Rolfe – South Bucks What sort of secure cloud are you going to be using.

Matt Dickinson – Google Drive or Microsoft One Drive which are more secure than emailing

Adrian Barnard – a Comment really It's great when running events to have a central contact when running events. Also monthly compilation instead of quarterly I'm not sure you'll get a return.

Matt Dickinson – Given that memberships are annual, if the return was quarterly the information could be out of date.

Mark Hawkins – Barnet Delegate Sharing spreadsheets is something I have done with Erik allowing for than one person to update a list of attendees. It does work as long as everyone to be authenticated as a One drive log in.

Francis Wallington – Lichfield Delegate Firstly, do we need to do this? Do we not have the power already to do this?

Matt Dickinson – Under GDPR, the National Federation of Plus areas has 4 members, any data transferred between different level, it's considered that you need a specific rational to share that. This is a secure way of doing that.

Francis Wallington – Lichfield Delegate Why aren't we centralizing this?

Matt Dickinson – That would be a different motion.

Votes for 16

Against 1

Passed by majority, comes into action on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## **13 Facility for National Debate**

### **13.1 National Trophies, are they still relevant, do the categories need updating**

Steve Rolfe – South Bucks delegate It's already been a nice thing to receive a trophy, I've always felt it's good to have acknowledgement of good work or good practice. Whether the current categories are relevant could be questionable, I'd love to hear what everyone else thinks.

Ian Crawshaw VP I'm surprised people haven't stormed these microphones to say something as it's quite a hot and interesting topic. It came about as Lincs Quest has won most trophies and rightly so as they are the best group, best event, charitable fundraisers, publicity but has it become a formality to award it to Linc Quest. What we are trying to do was think how can we spread it around a bit. I came up with the idea of most improved trophy. A trophy that can move around.

Erik Bean – Stevenage Delegate Just because Lincs Quest have had a run of luck for a while doesn't mean we can't do well too, we're trying, we are doing out publicity, our blog, we're interacting with Facebook, having new members nights. Our time may come... We make a fuss if we win an award, we do publicity, we recently won the most active group in the area, for attending events. We didn't just put it on the shelf in my lounge. I don't think we should rig them to stop the group who are going the best. Keep awarding them, if you win them make a huge fuss on social media.

Lis Buller – Lincs Quest Probably no surprise but we are in favour of trophies, it gives us incentive to carry on what we are doing, to provide a very full program, it encouraged the members with the charity work that we do. I don't think excellent should be penalized at all, I agree with that Erik said in that regard. I like Ian's idea of the most improved group which would be open to everyone including the smaller group that do not have the advantages that we do. We use the trophies for publicity, our group are thrilled when we go back to say we have won a trophy again, it encourages us to keep going and having that recognition is lovely.

Gerry Edwards – VP We have a lot of trophies, the majority of which we presented before 1970, there are very few modern trophies eg. Linda Street Award, best new group. There are many trophies we don't actually award anymore, do we need to repurpose then. I believe we should have people awards like the Linda Street Award.

James Oliver – Solihull Delegate I think the awards are valid, they help groups grow.

Alison Jones – Some trophies do not have submissions but they work is being done, I've seen on Facebook group doing charity work and the Treasurers trophy isn't a competition as there is one entry. Are people not interested in the Treasurers Trophy anymore or did they just forget to submit it to me?

Katie Hawkins – If we have more information, people may submit more entries.

Adam Redshaw – Coventry Maybe we bring back an awards ceremony with maybe some that are not quite so serious. It's all about recognizing what we have got do or don't do but may not realize that. We could nominate somebody as actually they are an unsung hero. It's not just what we call a trophy and the trophies we have, it's what we do with them.

Matt Dickinson – NC We have a few ideas there, if anyone wants to propose motions, bring them to the NEC

Francesca Barclay – Redbridge Delegate I think there should be a variety of trophies because there are groups out there who aren't being recognized the hard work they are doing. My group we acknowledge a variety who have good things through the year.

### **13.2 Future of the AGM**

Matt Dickinson, It's only the people here who like going to AGMS, there are lots of people who aren't here.

Erik Bean – Stevenage Delegate What is particularly interesting about this item for debate is when I submitted it. It read, the national reserves are a finite resource much better used for under writing events that should break even then subsidizing events in full or in part. Obviously I was thinking that National decided to heavily subsize today when some people think Adrian and Ben could bring it in break even if we all paid £25 but obviously we like coming to the AGM but that's not really my point, the point I was trying to make was the national reserves are very limited and if we don't have national reserves, how are we going run events like the Spring Break or something else that we might need to underwrite. We shouldn't be working out way through the national reserves unnecessarily they are there just in case. Lets keep having AGMs as I like them, we get to share ideas, the postcards we used were Barnet's idea that we shamelessly ripped off. We get to improve our debating skills and people who used to be shy have learnt to stand in a hall and talk to a couple of dozen people and that's a great skill to have in life.

Matt Dickinson When subsidizing this event through national reserves, this was the decision of the area chairs not the GPC. The people here do like AGMs but we are probably 10% of the actual membership maybe we aren't selling it to people. I think it's more expense to run than it ever has been.

Adrian Barnard The hotel last year were very nice and said look you haven't got the numbers anymore and it's business and we can't close off our hotel for a weekend every year because they can make more money elsewhere. We were viable for them which is why we are here, we are limited to 40 today still, this is a room for 60.

If we had 40 people here and charged everyone £25 we would have turned over a small surplus, of course you are all being heavily subsidized. At the ANC is 2008 where we chose our future path, Area lead did not have an ANC and I would like to thank all the members who were there 98.6% of people who voted to have an AGM. The actual cost for today would be £23.60 if we had 40 people, hence the £25 cost, which would have covered any unexpected cost. This year is an example of what it is without a hotel next year we would try to get booking from people asap so we know how many people we will get.

James Oliver – Solihull Delegate I think we do need AGMs, but they need to be more central to allow a greater percentage of groups to attend.

John Smith I just wanted to let you know why I voted for the subsidy, normally in the past the AGM has been business meeting and then something fun in the evening e.g. Dinner Dance, as we weren't getting the fun part of the event, I thought it would only be fair to subsidize the business part to encourage people to come and suggesting you would have paid the full price anyway which is great to see. I suppose the question is, if we have an AGM would you require a fun part of just the AGM.

Mark Hawkins - Barnet Delegate I'm as much up for a weekend in a hotel than anyone else but I do not think the organization needs to subsidize my taking part.

Matt Dickinson – if we have lots of Tenders, we can choose the one that best suits the Federation.

### **13.3 The future of the Federation**

This is more philosophical one really, we are all 20 years older than we were 20 years ago but we are doing the same things until we aren't able to anymore. Every so often we should reflect is that a good thing, it probably is but is it answering the original aims and objectives of the federations. In 10-15 years, the majority of the members will probably be in their late 50s/60s and it will be a different sort of organization.

Francis Wallington – Lichfield Delegate Am I still enjoying myself, am I still enjoying being a member? Yes, I am. NEC you we explored making the organization a CIO Community Interest Organization. You have the opportunity. It would cost under £20, it's a reasonable cost and a reasonable aim or goal to achieve. The limitation identified that we are growing older, the opportunity for us to do this is diminishing. Come get it together, start the process and do it.

Adrian Barnard VP My first term As National Chairman they elected be because some areas were losing 50% of their membership, we grow by 23%. This was by being positive, do not go for the negative. Be proud of what you are doing. That takes a bit of effect but not necessarily all that much money.

Adam Redshaw – I have a QR code, can people upload photos from today to that, so we have a bit of publicity.

Judy Mander – Bromsgrove I've started a new group in Bromsgrove and Redditch, it is already on Facebook and I've helped Solihull with their activities.

Matt Dickinson – I have been asked to hold a minute's silence and also for those going through a difficult period.

## **16 National Chairman's Address**

It's been an interesting year being National Chair, although we don't do formal training I think Chairing meetings is training itself. Think there are things you can say that went well, things you need to approach in a different way, self appraisal and reflection is an important part. We have a lot of people willing to give their time, It's usually the same old people, maybe there are people within the groups who we are overlooking. We do this because we enjoy it and I hope everyone has the responsibility to tell members about the AGM.

## **17 Election of Vice Presidents**

The existing VPs which to continue in their posts Ian Crawshaw, Adrian Barnard and Gerry Edwards, this is usually just a formal process if they would like to leave the room then we can have a vote.

Unanimously elected as VPs

Ian Crawshaw, thanks for voting us all in, we will continue to serve the Federation in the best way we can and in our unique styles.

Gerry Edwards, I second what Ian said, if anyone needs anything just give me a call. I'm only too pleased to help out where needed

### **17.1 Independent Examiner for 2023 Accounts**

Katie Hawkins if you want to leave the room

Katie is duly elected.

Awarding of Trophies

Rhianna Wright I didn't receive the Linda Street trophy I don't know where that has gone and also Mike Shapcott didn't receive the trophy for best group either.

Lincs Quest have the Linda Street Trophy as they were given it at the 80ish.

Treasurer Trophy We only had one person send in nominations and that was Midland Area so well done to them.

Charities Trophy – Lincs Quest

Golden Trail won by Redbridge for their scavenger hunt.

Best Group Trophy Lincs Quest – It has been a really hard year this year but going forward hopefully we will grow again.

Dual Purpose David Cobb Jug Mug (Best Area) – North Thames and Chiltern

Linda Street Award – Linda was a late past VP, the most active member you would come across to recognize people in plus who do a lot in the background, This year the Linda Street Award is going to Martin Posner.

Martin said Thanks very much, I am shocked

### **18 Any other Business**

James Oliver – Can we have a round of applause for Matt Dickinson as chair.

Francis Wallington – It's getting difficult for groups to open bank accounts, if anyone has any information, let us know. Steve Rolfe, I would recommend Lloyds bank, they have been more than helpful for us. Ben Allen we have no problem with Nat West

Erik Brean Can you all go back to your groups and recruit

Adrian Barnard – Just a reminder we are at the Station Garden tonight from 6pm.

Communication is key, most of my report is asking to provide details for the National Directory. GDPR doesn't really let me put it together from last year, I would have to leave a lot of Blanks

### **19 Announcement of Date and Time of Next AGM**

TBA

### **20 Presidential Closing Address**

Gerry Edwards – We have had lots of good debates, first of all can I pay tribute to Matt Dickinson, it's not easy to lose an election and well done for sitting through the last hour. The energy is still in this room, but it is waning as people are

tired. Not many people have gone out, I think the venue has helped to keep delegates engaged. I noted in Erica's speech, and she is right, it's about the many and not the few, we need to be careful just the 26 in this room and online, we need to let everyone know what happened in the meeting.

Erik's point is right, why do people join a group, there's no point people coming along for the first time, you need to want to join the group, be vibrant and be engaging and stay positive.

I hope the 3 or 4 people who spoke for the first time felt it worthwhile coming. We want you to come again and stay with us.

It is really clear to us the AGM is here to stay. We need to embrace how we are going to achieve the business part and the evening event but the 2 go together, this venue has worked out well.

The message out of today is we need to be positive and vibrant to determine what we want out of our areas and group.

Thank you all for coming. Lovely to see you again, the AGM does bring people together as does WASH.

### **21 Closure of meeting**

I formally close the meeting and see you all later.