

NEC “Pre-NAGM” Committee Meeting

Jacobean Hotel Coventry, 24 February 2017

Minutes

Present: Erica Knight (NC), Joan Clifford (HGS), Nick Grant (NFO), James Oliver (MAC), Matthew Dickinson (Dep. NC / NTAC Chair), Nicky Rolfe (SA Chair), Steve Rolfe (Observer), John Smith (Observer), Francis Wallington (VP), Gerry Edwards (VP), Ian Crawshaw (NEC Admin), Jeff Rea (Nat. Internet Co-ordinator), Martin Posner (ASEA Chair)

Agenda:

Meeting opened at 10:00pm.

Discussion of tomorrow’s Agenda

EK asked do we need to change the Agenda for tomorrow? FW asked about a room for the Sunday, the upstairs alcove may have to do as the boardroom was in use. *[After meeting, the boardroom turned out to be available for Sunday]* NG said it could be a problem the National Officers being voted in at the beginning. EK said we do need to move it around.

IC asked JR about enacting the proportional levy for Areas. JR replied that this is about enacting 25% of agreed membership fee to National per member. FW asked was this motion raised before the deadline and was it seconded? No to both. FW pointed out that Stevenage motions deserve to have priority as submitted on time. GE – if JR submitting stuff at this late hour, it should be discussed even if as general debate (rather than motions). JO – if discussed early it’s not good enough, should still be submitted properly. JS – believes provision exists for emergency motions (eg if not proposing proportional levy could have a drastic effect such as the demise of Southern Area). MD – NEC have power to set the levy. Can debate JR’s proposals but NEC get the veto as for setting the levy. JR – important issue re: size of Areas – agree can be discussed by NEC even if not a motion. MP – is the balance sheet this year based on last year’s balance sheet? NG – although Katie audited it, he did not fully understand it. MD – do we have to debate or can we just have the power to set levies?

Debate Item on Diversity

It was decided not to include South Kent’s item on Diversity in the Facility for National Debate as there was going to be nobody present from South Kent to discuss it.

Late Reports

There was discussion on late submission of Area Reports but there was a vote to decide whether to accept these – **Carried Unanimously.**

Motion 12.2 (seconding of motions) was debated and it was felt this just repeats what the National Constitution already says. MD said motions submitted to NAGM need to be clarified. All of Stevenage’s motions require 75% majority to succeed.

IC – point of order – the NEC needs to specify its stance on the motions: for, against or neutral.

Motion 12.1 – National Lite

FW – If this gets passed, there is no way back.

A vote was taken on the NEC’s position for Motion 12.1 (National Lite); **Neutral.**

Motion 12.2 – on Proposers and Seconders

MD – it says we need a Secunder before we submit. IC – this can open a can of worms re: National Officers standing etc. GE – NEC should be neutral and let the NAGM decide. JS – regard this as a procedural motion / point of info. The National Chair should make a ruling that Proposer and Secunder should be submitted 28 days before NAGM. If you don’t like it then challenge the Chair!

Motion 12.3 (Proportional Motion)

JR – this is about delegates proportional to membership, per group. FW – it's about democratic engagement and representation. IC – urges the NEC to be against – should be 1 member 1 vote! **Vote** – NEC against this motion (unanimously) – Matt to speak for NEC.

Jeff's Submissions

MD – why are these for 1 year not forever? EK – because then they would have to be constitutional. The **consensus** was we would address these through the Facility for National Debate and ask a straw poll. JS recommends the NEC make the decision at the next NEC meeting (under guidance from the NAGM).

Speaker

FW asked what about Wendy? (The external speaker). EK – being catered for. Need to get Wendy's consent to livestream her speech.

The meeting ended with an in camera session, those not involved were allowed to leave.