**Minutes of NPC Executive Committee**

**21 January 2021 by Zoom**

**In attendance:** Please see appendix

**Apologies:** Pat Turner, David Luxton, Janet Shapiro

Ron informed everyone that Claude James had passed away. He was a very active member of the TUC, TSSA and the NPC Minority Elders Committee. A minute’s silence was held.

Barry informed the meeting that Frank Cooper – honorary President – had suffered a heart attack on 2 January. He was getting better and waiting to move to rehab.

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 29 October 2020:**

Agreed.

1. **Matters Arising:**

* No attendance appendix attached. Will be sent out with next minutes.
* New Auditor

1. **General Secretary’s Report:**

* Dates for future meetings will be on zoom unless otherwise notified.
* Southport: There is no cost to postponing the Annual Convention. Southport is having the same conversations as we are. There should be no hotel accommodation issues as under government guidelines anyone booked should receive a refund.

Discussion on various aspects:

* Affiliates may not be able to meet on Zoom.
* Groups not meeting as key members either not in favour or not connected.
* Several regions have met with the help of Jonathan.
* Is there an opportunity to act as an ‘observer’?
* Need to recognise there will be those unable to, or don’t want to use Zoom. There are issues in rural areas with the quality of broadband and those with disabilities – particularly hearing and sight loss
* Is NPC excluding people from our work? Yorkshire/Humberside – neither the Chair nor the Treasurer is able to take part.
* Postal problems because of staff sickness
* CSPA have a number of groups with no interest in Zoom meetings.
* Phone in function – can be costly. Need to know what your package allows in terms of Zoom. *{NB: Example - PIWP have a member on phone. His package is free phone calls for up to one hour. He closes the call at 56 minutes and re-enters again 3 or 4 minutes later at no cost}*
* Women are disadvantaged because of financial issues.
* Use telephone more to keep in touch with members.

Jan repeated that the NPC would not be forcing anyone online. It is important that all our members know they can participate in whatever way suits them. Clearly virtual meetings will be the norm for some organisations even after the pandemic, but the NPC will always need alternatives. At this moment in time, we are struggling without the regular access to our office, the photocopier and franking machine, but we have a duty of care to staff and to keep them safe.

**Recommendation agreed.**

1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Barry informed the meeting that Bob Bayley had been agreed as the new Auditor.

2020 was difficult for everyone and it is likely to be equally hard in 2021. The draft budget was set and reviewed in the light of the pandemic. The deficit is a better picture than hoped for, but there are elements of savings on expenditure (like rent free 3 months) that will not occur again.

Thanks to all affiliates for making their payments and to Age UK for their continued support through their grant.

We are aware of difficulties with local groups having the biggest problem in administering their affiliations as they are not meeting.

Finance Working Party (FWP) will finalise budget for 2021. The next EC will have income and expenditure charts to make it easier to understand how it all works.

Easyfundraising: potential for raising money – has increased slightly through pandemic. The larger spends on holiday and travel are obviously not coming in.

Ron thanked Barry, the FWP and Mohammad for all their hard work.

There was a discussion on the various aspect with Barry explaining how things worked. Through discussion it was asked if a written report could be produced to make it easier for people to understand the difficulties.

*{FWP will do so in future}*

**Report agreed**

1. **Campaign Officer Report:**

The details for registration for the next Webinar ‘Connections for All’ have been sent out, so please register. The Webinar will cover support and encouragement for those who would like to be connected but for whatever reason, financial or otherwise, cannot. The big questions to answer are access to equipment, cost, security. Please send in questions for the panel.

COVID: Press release on concerns with the delay in delivering the second vaccination and asking for support for those shielding at home with deliveries of food, medication etc.

We met with Louise from the Centre for Ageing Better yesterday. This is a charity which does a lot of research on age, health, employment etc. There may be an opportunity to work with them and some funding available. They may also come on board with our campaign for a Commissioner for Older People in England as a focal point for all issues impacting on older people. We have access to their stock of positive images on older people.

National Care Service: bringing the ‘movers and shakers’ together in a round table.

Triple Lock: Work is in progress on a briefing.

Southport: Looking at an online set of sessions and what we can do for those who do not have access.

Campaign News will come out next week

BBC meetings still ongoing. We have not abandoned the TV licence campaign

Discussion on report:

* Vaccinations – confusing messages. The ‘Tonight’ programme is looking at care homes and the impact of COVID
* NPC licence is for 100 participants on Zoom, plus we record and stream on YouTube as well.
* TV licence – do we know what is happening to people who do not pay? Jan said the BBC will not be visiting homes where there is anyone over the age of 75. If that changes, we will be the first to know, but the BBC are much more aware of the issues since our meeting with them.
* Not happy with the delay of second vaccination to 12 weeks. World Health Organisation has said there is no data and Pfizer has expressed a view on the effectiveness of the second jab after a delayed period.
* Joan Bakewell, Labour Peer, is taking a legal case on the question of the delay.
* Some GP’s are not delaying second jab.
* So much up in the air, policy conflict, biggest issue is inquiry into pandemic, life expectancy decreasing
* Making sure you have a vaccination card before you leave. Campaign News.

Jan reported that the Prime Minister has said there will be no inquiry during the pandemic. The real reason for applying the delay between the two vaccinations is the fact that the government in its haste to be seen to be the first government in the world to start vaccinations, neglected to realise they had not ordered enough for the priority groups to have the 2 vaccinations within the 21 days. There are some issues with deliveries and then there is also the changes day to day on who is the priority list. All of this means nothing to those waiting for their second jab.

Vaccination is not the total answer to the pandemic. We will still have to have restrictions of some kind.

Ellen raised the difficulty with BAME communities who are at a higher risk of COVID, but are also not taking up the vaccine. There are a number of reasons for this which we need to tackle with good information to our members.

1. **Information Officer Report:**

Website and social media dip probably due to the Xmas close down. Increasing again.

Support to Bev and Jan on webinar and other areas of work. General administration.

It was suggested that for the Webinar event, regions could contact their local media.

FWP Fundraising Sub-Committee – thanks to Jonathan for arranging everything.

Ron thanked Bev and Jonathan for all their hard work.

1. **Working Party Reports:**
2. Health & Social Care: Jan spoke to the report. A lot is being said about a National Care Service, but the political will is missing. To complement ‘Goodbye Cinderella’ the working party believe we need a manifesto that demands older people’s rights to health and care are delivered. The statement offered for agreement by the EC will form the basis of our manifesto to come to the March EC meeting.

Questions/Comments:

* Consultation and NHS Trade deals and various impacts on drugs etc. The Trade deal goes back to the cross-bench committee in the House of Lords.
* Integrated Care Services (ICS) will be made legal, Simon Stevens, NHS England move to insurance-based system.
* Must be opposed, no public input.

The NPC submission on ICS’s is on the website and has been circulated to all affiliates.

**Statement agreed. Report agreed**

1. Pensions & Income Working Party: Jan presented the report and asked if anyone had knowledge and experience of annuities (or knew someone). A new area of work for the working party.

Questions/Comments:

* Will NPC policy be included in the Triple Lock briefing – *Yes it will*
* Impact on investments by pandemic. Inevitable deficits and it is key that employers continue their commitments to workers. Ask TUC if they are working on it.
* Lots of discussion on a basic income. Where is the NPC on this? *We have not had those discussions yet. Much depends on what level the basic income is set at; i.e. above or below the current basic state pension and whether the government will include retired people. The NPC policy for a decent state pension for all is, in effect, a universal state pension income.*

**Report agreed**

1. LGBT – **Report agreed**
2. Women’s Working Party: Regular meetings on Zoom. Two members not accessed to technology and phone calls can be expensive. Unfortunately, Janet Shapiro is very unwell and the Exchange News is delayed. The working party does not have anyone who can use the Publisher package. Invitation for women to submit articles, information and ideas to office to forward on.

*Dot can help with newsletter if needed.*

**Report agreed**

1. Digital Working Party: Feedback and ideas from member’s welcome. There are organisations out there to help. Click on the link in the report and then on the map for the nearest local venues. The campaign is just starting.

Comments:

* Concerned that the emphasis is entirely on getting people online.
* IT is infuriating when it doesn’t work. You can have a different experience every time
* It’s a two-way thing – free broadband courses during pandemic.

Jenny responded – the campaign is in two parts. Schemes throughout the country give free access. Digital champions – older people need ongoing support.

Ellen gave her personal experience of being totally isolated when she lost her internet, computer and telephone all at once. There are also issues around language that need to be met.

**Report agreed**

1. Housing Working Party: There have been two working party meetings since the last EC. There are issues around the government evictions deadline; construction fraud; regulations on cladding with residents being made to pay thousands of pounds.

Rental Reform Coalition – Barry had done some research and found it very interesting. Jonathan will look into further, but the NPC does need to support and be part of this in terms of the increase in older people renting from private landlords.

Jan wished to respond to action point 1 of the report. The nomination papers have been sent out to recruit to the three working parties who do not have the full 10-person membership. The deadline for nominations is 1 March with the EC holding elections if appropriate.

On the issue of working party members already nominated and not attending meetings, it is not for the NPC to dictate to nominating bodies what they should do. It requires us to ask the nominating body to either encourage their nominee to attend, or accept the resignation of that nominee and decide whether they wish to replace them. The reason the working parties are set up as they are is for accountability reasons.

Jan will contact the two nominating bodies concerned and ask the questions.

**Report agreed**

1. Transport: Peter apologised for no written report, but the Secretary has been busy with lots of issues. The concerns for the working party are around transport returning to normal after the pandemic; buses and staff have disappeared; toilets still closed. The working party have written to the Department of Transport making it clear that research exists in the Department that proves the thing older people and vulnerable people value most is the presence of staff.

The Transport working party have produced a comprehensive report as a submission to the government consultation which will be circulated once submitted.

Transport for London (TfL) have requested input into how they should deal with the reduced funding. The position was not clear and would not be clear until the nature of the cuts is explained. Opportunity has been available to input our concerns. It would be helpful if Regional Secretaries made contacts in their areas to protect services.

NPC Wales has taken part in a consultation by the Welsh Assembly. Asked to pass information to the office. We can collate and send to Transport working party.

**Report agreed**

1. **National Pensioners Education & Welfare Centre:**

Dot reported they will have held a Zoom meeting before the next EC

1. **A.O.B.:**

* Getting a card after first jab is a must.
* An Annual Report will be done for March when we should have held the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) in 2021
* BDC 2022 need to look forward on succession and other areas.
* Mick Newton informed the meeting that miners who have pneumoconiosis, emphysema, Chronic Bronchitis and COPD are having the cause of death noted as due to COVID without the underlying conditions mentioned. An Early Day motion is in place and it would be helpful if this can be circulated to affiliates. *{Yes we can circulate}*
* Mineworkers Pensions – the government have taken around £5billion from the pension fund. There are 50 MPs who have written to the Select Committee asking for an inquiry into the misappropriation of funds. Can NPC support us. {*Yes we can ask all our affiliates to write to their MP and encourage them to join the demand for an inquiry}*

1. **Next meeting:** 25 March 2021 @ 10.30 am on Zoom

**Appendix**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Group | First name | Surname |
| Co-optee ME | Antonietta Bortone | Tinney |
| UCU | Philip | Burgess |
| NPC Eastern Region | Tony | Garner |
| Treasurer | Barry | Todman |
| NPC G.A.S. | Keith | Evans |
| NPC G.A.S. | Darryl | Collins |
| NPC Yorkshire & Humber | Paul | Russell |
| NPC President | Ron | Douglas |
| TSSA | Steve | Whitehead |
| UCATT | Tony | O'Brien |
| Vice President | Marion | Wilson |
| Vice President | Norman | Jemison |
| Vice President | Peter | Rayner |
| Deputy General Secretary | Dot | Gibson |
| NPC Anglia | Chris | Brooks |
| UNISON | Rosie | MacGregor |
| General Secretary | Jan | Shortt |
| RMT | Tony | Donaghey |
| RCN | June | Clark |
| NPC West Midlands | Ingrid | Caras-Atlas |
| PCS / ARMS | Sandra | Durkin |
| NUJ | Jenny | Sims |
| co-optee WWP | Meg | McDonald |
| BTPF | Les | McDowell |
| NPC Wales | Gareth | Parsons |
| NPC Thames Valley | Linda | Richards |
| CWU | Damian | Ibison |
| NASUWT/FRMA | Roger | Darke |
| NPC NW | Ralph | Moses |
| NPC Northern | Roy | Rix |
| NARF | Francis | Byrne |
|  | Tony | Hall |
| Unite | Phil | Wiseman |
| NPC Vice President | Ellen | Lebethe |
| NPC East Midlands | Mick | Newton |
| RCN | David | Briggs |