**MINUTES OF NPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2020 BY ZOOM**

**In attendance: please see appendix**

**Apologies:** Sandra Durkin, Roy Rix, Pat Turner, Geoff Page, John Lean, Ellen LeBethe, Brian Adams

Ron Douglas welcomed everyone and asked that we remember those members we know are no longer with us: Ralph Baxter, Phyllis Preece, Charlie Wheatley, Derry Thorpe.

1. **Minutes of 19 November 2019:**
2. Accuracy: add Philip Burgess to attendance list.
3. Matters arising: none
4. **General Secretary’s Report:**

Jan drew the attention of members to two separate reports – one which is the usual update and the other from the meeting with the BBC. Jan explained the consultation on hate crime and that members would be asked to share with us, anonymously, their experiences as an older person.

This does not include things like travel insurance, car insurance that increases with age – that is ageism which we will work on in another way. We will circulate information on the section of the Law Commission’s consultation paper relating to age. Issues raised:

* Southport: The date given comes after a bank holiday and it may affect the availability of accommodation and travel. Jan is due to contact Southport shortly regarding the opening of the newly refurbished theatre, recognising the local lockdown situation.
* BBC report – talk to them about digital inclusion training.
* Domestic abuse bill – data not collected for those over 74.

Report agreed.

1. **Treasurers Report:**

Barry presented his report and highlighted the need for a new auditor due to John Amos passing away. If anyone is interested, or knows of anyone who might be, please let us know.

The projected budget produced has been re-written to take account of different measures due to the pandemic. Affiliations – some are still outstanding, but communication is taking place with particularly the national affiliates. It is more when their payment will be received rather than if. But is does have an effect on the budget. Barry explained that the NPC had received a cheque for just over £300 from the defunct NPC Scotland who have wound up their group.

As a result of the pandemic and unions losing membership, we may find that their ability to donate to the NPC is affected.

The FWP is monitoring and there will be a new report taken to the National Council.

Report agreed.

1. **Campaign Officers Report:**

Bev gave a short presentation on her report. Issues raised:

* Digital copies of ‘Goodbye Cinderella’. There is one available and Jan will send to Gareth Parsons.
* The follow up with MPs – a template letter has already gone out to affiliates and we would very much appreciate individuals contacting their own MPs.
* We should also ask the BBC for an airing of our policy – several have already been aired.
* On the webinar for Human Rights for Older People in Care – it is our intention to invite both Commissioners for Older People.

Report agreed. Bev was thanked for all her hard work.

1. **Information Officers Report:**

Jonathan gave an overview of his report. The increase traffic to our website was of particular interest. Report agreed. Jonathan was thanked for all his hard work.

1. **Working Party Reports:**

**Women’s Working Party**: Rosie McGregor introduced the report. There were concerns regarding the potential loss of universal benefits; the bus pass, free prescriptions etc. Not just for older people given the American drug companies who are well settled in the UK. Increasing the cost of drugs has a major impact on everyone. Still need to encourage more women into leading roles. Report agreed

**Housing Working Party:**  Ron stated that items 8, 9, 10 of the report were not for discussion at this meeting. Tony O’Brien spoke to the report highlighting the devastation to incomes through the pandemic. The working party had responded to the planning consultation and was looking at the ‘Accessible Homes’ consultation. Tony has supported the LESE TUC seminar on housing on behalf of the NPC. The working party has had difficulties with membership attendance, but it is hoped that with the intervention of the GS, these will improve. However, the working party felt that it wanted the EC to agree to allow nominations to go out for new members. Their meetings take place on a 6-8 week basis. Issues raised:

* Nominations should go out for other working parties.
* Grenfell – questions around the Fire Safety Bill, and the Building Safety Bill as an outcome of the Grenfell tragedy. Tony said the situation is being monitored and will be discussed further.
* A proposal from Jenny Sims to co-opt members to the three working parties. This proposal was seconded by Ingrid Caras-Atlas.
* Norman Jemison – agree to nominations going out as a temporary measure until the next BDC.

The General Secretary reminded the EC that the three new working parties constituted after the 2019 BDC all had 7 members. It takes time to build up working parties to their maximum. She also reminded the EC that at the November 2019 meeting they had voted against adding any new members to working parties. In a ballot taken on the postponement of the 2021 BDC, the EC had voted that officers and working parties would remain insitu for the extra year. She would prefer to see whether or not the intervention had worked for the Housing working party before asking the EC to agree to the seeking of nominations.

Ron moved the report be agreed. The report was agreed.

The Officer team will be meeting before the National Council and will discuss how nominations are sought and when. National Council will receive a report on the matter.

**Transport:** Peter Rayner reported that the working party had written to the Transport Select Committee in regard to the temporary legislation during the pandemic and our wish to guard against this becoming a permanent feature.

Transport for London (TfL) freedom pass. The Act is about buses not all public service transport. London is differently funded for transport.

Trade Unions are taking up the issue in a broader campaign to include pensioners and young people. NPC London have signed a letter from RMT, supported by ASLEF and TSSA. This will be circulated. Issues raised:

* Concern that bus companies are reducing the number and frequency of services. We need local control/ownership of local bus services.
* Restrictions in place now may well stay for the future. Concerning for everyone.

The report was agreed.

**LGBT:** Jan moved the report. It was felt that the title should remain as Working Party even though the EC had previously agreed to the Minority Elders becoming a Committee.

The report was agreed.

**Digital Inclusion/Exclusion:** Jenny Sims presented the report. She reported that there were two parts to the campaign 'Connections For All'. One to seek organisations to support older people to become more IT confident and the other to raise the exclusion older people are facing with the drive to technology.

The problems regions have raised could be resolved by looking at local access for training and support; e.g. in Hammersmith & Fulham there is Age UK and Hammersmith & Fulham Healthcare.

It was raised that Further Education and Adult Education could be used to access support and training. The Good Things Foundation is free for training, but there may be a cost to the NPC in membership.

The report was agreed.

1. **National Pensioners Education & Welfare Centre (NPEWC)**

Dot reported that a meeting will take place shortly. NPEWC is looking at a grant for digital inclusion. They also want to put together a book of poetry by pensioners. The poem can be on any subject, so anyone writing poetry, please send it in.

1. **A.O.B:**
* In terms of future meeting times, Jonathan will send out a schedule for three different slots; AM, 12 noon, PM. We will take the majority view.
* UNISON webinar ‘Care After Covid’ was recorded and is on the UNISON website. Similar to NPC policy.
* An expression of thanks to the General Secretary and team for the hard work done and still being done to be recorded.
1. **Next meeting:**  21 January 2021. Time to be confirmed once members have returned the schedule form.

**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 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 |
| NFOP | Steve | Turner |
| General Secretary | Jan | Shortt |
| RMT | Tony | Donaghey |
| co-optee W | Susan | Howe |
| RCN | June | Clark |
| NPC West Midlands | Ingrid | Caras-Atlas |
| 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 |