**Anglia Region Pensioners Association (NPC) - Minutes of Autumn Meeting 18th October**

**1. Welcome:** Chairman Chris Brooks welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Attendance:** Chris & Janet Brooks, Sam Sirdar, Letitia Willins, Les & Audrey Wilson, Glynis Calvert, Alma Mingay, Rosalind Hodgkins, John Eccleston,Ian Evans.

**Apologies:** Aisha Jermy, Graham Potter,Keith & Ros Montague, Ron Douglas, David & Mary Russell,

Teresa Mackay, Cliff Horne, Judith Garvey, Gerry Calder

**3. Minutes of Autumn Exec. Meeting:** accepted as true record.

**4. Matters Arising:** BDC Matters: Chris taking Aisha and picking up Letitia at Sams on the 12th March. No response from David & Mary re attending as observers. Officer Nominations agreed with Ellen Lebethe as 4th Vice President nomination. Joel Tominski nominee of Ron on Standing Orders nomination. We are discussing a climate change resolution to go forward later in the meeting. On communications Letitia receives info via email from Ros and decides what goes out quarterly by surface mail. Graham recuperating from his operation, Chris will send info soon for him to update the website including these minutes.Burston Rally was a good sunny, windy day. Joint information session at Bury well attended and Assistant Secretary of NPC Dot Gibson obtained useful information from the discussions. WASPI members were present and presnted a speech about their predicament and were invited to our meeting today. NPC info booklets were circulated and Chris handed one each to Ian Evans and Letitia Willins. There was a good buffet laid on. The UN Day of the Older Person we celebrated in Norwich by distributing 200 leaflets from our stall followed by a good lunch at Cosmo World Restaurant. The photo opportunity for Excess winter deaths is now confirmed as a free coffee morning for Anglia affiliates at the Lowestoft 60+ Club on Tuesday 27th November 10.30 am.

**5. Chairman's Report & Discussion:** NPC meetings in London had been covered by Chris and Sam. At the exec. Meeting in September, Jan Shortt reported our surveyor is processing our HS2 compensation claim.The HQ info officer Melek has left for Turkey Uni. And another is to be appointed.

Draft Housing Policy amendments can still be proposed and will be finalised at the BDC.

Green Paper on Social Care still not appeared!

Visits to York Rally on Bus Pass – local MP spoke on reasons why bus pass is so important to elderly; to ASLEF Retired Members and to NI Pensioners Parliament.

Meeting arranged with Frances O'Grady & Tim Sharp policy officer on Pensions.

Building the Pensioners Movement & Generations United. Letter agreed at the July exec re involvement of Trades Unions sent to all general secretaries of affiliated unions- so far three replies from ASLEF, USDAW & NEA.

Chris outlined the National Officers Report by Neil Duncan-Jordan. These form the basis of the campaign bulletins and Message newspaper reports.

Blackpool Pensioners Parliament Committee attended. Anglia agreed to run the raffle there next year. We will get free accreditation for this. On the Tuesday am the Winter Gardens may be used for a film show for those attending early. Then the rally & march as usual at 1 pm.

NPC is working on its own Social Care policy as we await the Government's Green paper on this. Future of the free TV Licence is now in the newspapers – we have known the problems this will bring all along since George Osborne delegated the issue to the BBC.

The frozen pensions issue for expats living in commonwealth has a petition on [www.endfrozenpensions.org](http://www.endfrozenpensions.org/)

The Lobby of Parliament is next week Wednesday 24th October – we have hand waving flags for those who wish to go.

Ron & I attended NVCOs recent seminar on well being and code of ethics for charities and propose we affiliate with them which is free to all organisations with balances under £30,000. This was carried unanimously so we will register on their website at ncvo.org.uk/join and look forward to notification of their further events.

Letitia raised the bus issue with Coasthopper and Chris produced the report from the EDP on Sanders coaches network problems due to lack of local authority subsidy funding who themselves are underpaid by central government. Sanders operates the coasthopper service from Wells to Cromer & North Walsham but Lynx now operates the Kings Lynn to Hinstanton & Wells section.

Referring to other cuts John Eccleston raised the problems in care home services by managers who blame council reductions whilst councillors are giving themselves a rise! Three rooms for important community respite care in one Norse run home are now closed as it needs more income from permanent residents to pay taxes etc. John also reported children's service like Sure Start are also being reduced.

**6. Membership Affiliations & Finance:** Sam reported we have 34 corporate and 45 individual subscribing affiliations. The joint session with Eastern Region cost a total of £260 for hire of hall, speakers travel expenses, refreshments and lunch buffet so our share was £131. The balance at bank 11th October 2018 was £4,516.88 Flags costing £105 not included. The chair commented it is difficult to mount a meaningful conference with good speakers that will attract a large audience so as our relationship with Eastern Region is improving we can work jointly with them to provide larger conference events in the future as their venue in Bury is a good and central in East Anglia for such occasions.

7**. Communications Reports:** covered in item 4. Matters Arising.

**8. BDC Conference:** Ron's submission for a BDC resolution on Climate Change from Anglia to the BDC was copied for discussion at the meeting. The principle was favoured by Aisha, Keith & Ros and Mary Russell who sent apologies and also by those present. However most thought the resolution too lengthy and that Ron's wording would be ideal for a three minute presentation at the BDC based on a simpler general resolution from us. All agreed our amendment should be short and sweet composed with written ideas from Ron, Letitia, Chris and Janet. The resolution we will finally submit from our exec meetingon 8th November joint with Norwich & Norfolk group is therefore based on this formula that could be slightly amended then:

Anglia Region recognises the phenomenon of climate change and proposes that the NPC should investigate and promote its likely effects and possible damage-limitation on all people as it is an intergenerational issue.

**9. Burtson Rally:** **10. Anglia/Eastern Joint School at Bury:** **11. UN International Day:** See item 4.

**12. WASPI report:** No WASPI members present although two lady members of Lowestoft group had to lose 10 and 11 months of state pension due to the government policy adopted thus delay their entitlement. Sam remarked that we had hoped to make a donation today to WASPI for their campaign. Perhaps next time!

**13. Excess Winter Deaths photo opportunity at Lowestoft:** covered in item 4.

**14. Next Meetings:** All individual and group affiliates are invited to all General and Executive meetings.

 **Thursday 18h October 2018** : Anglia General Autumn Meeting – 10.00 for 10.30 am

Connaught Hall, Station Road, Attleborough, NR17 2AP

**Thursday 8th November 2018:** Anglia Exec. Committee Joint meeting with Norwich/Norfolk Grp, Village Hall, Hethersett, NR9 3JJThursday - (Only Anglia delegates can vote on exec. business). 10 for 10.30 am

**Thursday 21st March 2019 :** Anglia General Spring AGM – 10.00 for 10.30 am with a guest speaker

The Village Hall, Back Lane, Hethersett, NR9 3JJ

Other meetings:

**Thursday 28th February 2019** – 10.00 for 10.30 am – Norwich & Norfolk Group AGM.

The Village Hall, Back Lane, Hethersett, NR9 3JJ

**Tuesday 2nd April 2019** – 10.15 for 10.30 am Sheringham Group Bring & Buy and AGM --

St. Joseph's Church Hall, Cromer Road, Sheringham

**Every second Monday of the month except August** 1.45 for 2.00 pm - Lowestoft Branch Suffolk Pensioners : Lowestoft Telecom Sports and Social Club, 18 Clapham Road South, Lowestoft NR32 1QR – all pensioner visitors welcome.

Christmas Dinner Thursday 13th December 12 noon at the Wherry Hotel, Oulton Broad, NR32 3LN. Anglia members welcome. Three courses £17.99. Book with Anglia Chairman Chris Brooks Tel. (01502) 563208.