**Minutes of NPC Executive Committee**

**27 May 2021 by Zoom**

**In attendance:** Please see appendix

**Apologies:** Pat Turner; Dot Gibson; Norman Jemison; Chris Brooks (replacement Sam Sirdar);

Ralph Moses (replacement Alex McFadden); Steve Turner NFOP (replacement Vic Jeffries), David Briggs.

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting. He had been informed that Kevin Ashbrooke had passed away (NEU) and asked for a minute’s silence.

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2021:**
2. Page 5: Digital Working Party: jenny said that it was misleading and that the poll was not about Maureen’s report. Stage 1 was for the office to send out requests to Regional Secretaries. Stage 2 has been withdrawn.
3. **Matters Arising:**

None

**Minutes agreed.**

1. **General Secretary’s Report:**

Jan stated that an emergency item needs to be discussed today. This is the news that NHS Digital will, from 1 July 2021, be expecting all GPs to transfer patient data to them. There are concerns around the sharing of date with ‘third’ parties. Whilst we understand the need for data to ensure the proper services are in place for the future and that research can continue, it is a concern that very few people know about this data collection. The deadline for opting out is 23 June and currently all information and opt out forms are online which means millions of patients have no access – even if they knew about it. The concern is that NHS Digital will share data with ‘third parties’. Although the data is anonymised, NHS hold all the codes for access.

The NPC met with an organisation called Foxglove (Tuesday 25 May). Foxglove is an organisation monitoring GDPR and has taken action against companies like Google for breaches of data protection.

The NPC has offered to get information out to all our members, on social media and through press releases. The deadline of 23 June is close and there will be individuals whose data will be taken automatically. Once the data is collected, it cannot be deleted – the only thing to do is to opt out of any future data being sent.

Foxglove have written to both Matt Hancock and NHS Digital with critical questions and asking for important information with a deadline for their response this Friday (29 May). Failing their response and/or the deadline not being suspended, they would be looking at a Judicial Review and invited the NPC to be part of that.

We have told them we have no money for legal cases and it appears not to be a problem. However, we have a further meeting with them on Tuesday 1 June to get a current picture.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Alex: Key thing is to alert membership, contact the Shadow Minister and mount a massive campaign to get as much information out in the public arena as possible.
* Jenny: On Radio 4, the information will be anonymised.
* David: Not sure about the legal challenge. Data collection is about improving health care and access to NHS services. Make members aware.
* Allan Jeyes: Concern around ‘third parties’
* Tony Donaghey: Lack of information, passing on the hoof. Question of democracy, lobbyists and advisers.
* Janet: Information on private parties’ access to data.
* Ingrid: Important for the future research. There are ‘ethical committees’. Inclusion.
* Rosie: Concern, no consultation, ‘third parties’ open the doors to US. Public unaware.

*In response, Jan said that although data is anonymised the key to the codes lies with NHS Digital and they have already stated on their website that they share with ‘relevant third parties’. The fact that this is not in the public domain is concerning for those who do not want their data collected and those who are excluded from the process because it is online only.*

We will get information out later today with a press release and feed back to you after our meeting with Foxglove.

*NB: It is the case that the data will be pseudonymous not anonymous. This means that at some later date a patient can be identified.*

**Report agreed**

1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Barry reported that the three main Trade Unions had not yet affiliated – NEU, UNISON and UNITE (although this was in hand). Eight regions have not yet affiliated and we do understand the problems when groups are not meeting.

Lots of unknowns in the updated accounts – including the Age UK grant.

**Questions/Comments:**

* David: Is there a forecast for the end of the year.

Barry said there were lots of uncertainties – still assuming Age UK grant will be available.

**Report agreed**

1. **Finance Working Report:**

Peter introduced the report saying it was being taken now prior to the presentation by Steve.   The report is essentially for noting but of importance is that we are starting to talk to some fundraising people and hoping to get a package together.  To this end we shall need a fund raising Charity partner and we will be seeking to raise money through Trusts on the one hand and through sponsorship on the other

1. **Presentation by Finance Working Party:**

Steve Whitehead presented the information. The slides were shared on screen for everyone.

The colour slides were income and expenditure for the period 2015-2020. We cannot change what happened in the past but it should inform the future.

Relevant amount of office v what we do; living within our income. Loyal and hardworking staff.

The graph: starting point is 2019 – income not matching expenditure – it moves upward from now on. These figures are not a prediction; they are best estimates as things can intervene.

£80K in reserves. The NPC has obligations to staff and to its landlord

The full picture of what we can do and must do:

* Stick to agreed budgets, not go off on projects
* Increase income by investigating Trusts etc.
* Other areas; e.g. individual members; new affiliations; website; shop; more to sell; more events etc.
* Sports clubs or similar having fundraising events.
* Is there potential for increasing donations?

**Questions/Comments:**

* Janet: Appeal for donations at Annual Conference webinar.
* Damian: Sponsorship – possibly losing independence on what we do or say. Control or compromise.
* Jenny: FWP – who is on the fundraising group, how many? Sharing across NPC, ideas etc.
* Phil: Is it possible for young people to affiliate?
* Linda: Names of those on different committees/working parties go out every year. Raising membership and how we do it.
* Peter: Don’t think there would be a need to compromise or any attempt to influence NPC. Small fundraising group out of the working party – Philip, Les, Mike. Working parties are a question of record.
* Steve: We can always be contacted through Peter (Chair), always take ideas. Want to develop contacts with funders.

Ron thanked Steve for the presentation and the work put into it.

1. **Campaign Officer Report:**

Bev introduced her report and highlighted the Annual Convention. All four webinars are confirmed with an interesting mix of subjects and speakers. We will produce an extra Campaign News with outcomes of sessions. There had already been an understanding from the Officer team that we should ask for donations after each session. Trade Unions to encourage younger pensioners and those coming up to retirement.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Jenny: Older People’s Commissioner – needs to say ‘in England’.
* Ingrid: How do we register – *All of the links for all four webinars are on the website and have been circulated to all affiliates. We want to encourage those with technology to help those who have not to share access so friends and family can take part.*

Ron thanked Bev for all her hard work.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Information Officer Report:**

Jonathan introduced his report which was self-explanatory. Current work is promoting and getting information on the Annual Convention spread far and wide.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Linda: Thank Jonathan for helping Thames Valley with their zoom meeting. Much appreciated.
* Arthur: Good to see the footnote on sharing information.
* Tony G: Asking for donations to webinar is reasonable and a message to those who are not NPC members to join.
* Janet: Bulk buying of booklets – *Get in touch and let us know how many and we will work out postage etc.*

Ron thanked Jonathan for all his hard work.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Working Party Reports:**
2. **Structure Working Party:** Ron reported that a very good meeting had been held. He chairs that working party.

Jan spoke to the report and the matrix provided for members to see the thinking behind the review and how we progress forward. She highlighted the fact that there is a need to give our affiliates in the different areas of the NPC enough time to bring forward discussion in their groups and therefore it is possible that we may not have completed the whole of the review by the time we attend the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC). In that case, there would be an interim report set before the BDC.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Gareth: Could the recommendations be put on screen when it comes to voting.
* Jenny: Who is who? Introductions from people would be helpful.
* Steve: How frequently will the matrix be updated? Interim report – any immediate change to structure? Ask because of motions to BDC. Can send round the Nolan Principles
* Rosie: Use of Chairman. Can change your name on the screen
* Linda: Can we focus on the issues in hand.
* Put Chair on the bottom of working party reports.

Poll on recommendation 1:

33 polled – 31 responses

30 for                    97%

0 against              0%

1 abstain              3%

Poll on recommendation 2:

33 polled – 31 responses

26 for                    87%

2 against              6%

2 abstain              6%

Poll on recommendation 3:

33 polled – 31 responses

29 for                    94%

1 against              3%

1 abstain              3%

**Report agreed.**

1. **LGBT:** Members reported that the presentation to National Council had been very positive. Looking to build on that now they are working on their first newsletter and also making connections with Trade Union LGBT officers as a start to widening their information. The General Secretary has been asked to write to those Working Parties who have not had a speaker requesting an invitation be sent.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Digital Working Party:**

Jenny Sims presented the report. The letter to Oliver Dowden did not include funding – has there been a reply from anyone. *Jan reported a reply had been received from one of the Ministerial Team, but that it did not cover the issue of how alternatives to online activity would be supported. A response will be done and both letters circulated to affiliates.*

Those who are interested in finding training and support, email Jenny to be signposted to nearby local organisations.

Ideas for the ‘Connections for All’ campaign.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Women’s Working Party:**

Encourage everyone to access the video done for International Women’s Day. A presentation from a member of LGBT group was well received. The latest Exchange Newsletter is produced and well received. Hoping for face to face meetings, however the NEU building used is now for sale. Any ideas to Jonathan on venues for free meeting space would be appreciated.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Transport:**  Peter highlighted that municipally owned bus companies are under review. The issue of e-scooters was covered in the Campaign News – has to be controlled, regulated and enforced. Remain concerned about what is happening under the COVID emergency legislation.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Tony G: Essex running 6 trials and transport survey on e-scooters.
* Paul R: Elected Mayor for West Yorkshire has powers to move to franchising. Important to congratulate Andy Burnham for taking control/franchising bus services – much nearer public control. In danger of losing services. Arguing for better bus services, local plans for roads. More and faster traffic!
* Allan Jeyes: e-scooters on ITV ‘Tonight’ programme last week. The other fiasco is the ‘new’ British Rail.

**Report agreed.**

1. **Health & Social Care:** The main issue in the report is the discussion held in the working party on assisted dying and webinar agreed by National Council which is under recommendation 2 of the report.

**Questions/Comments:**

* Arthur: Support both recommendations.
* Keith: I recognise the care that is being taken*.*
* Janet: Thank you for the support for the Mary Feilding Care Home. A lack of security of tenure in care homes.
* Tony O’Brien: Against recommendation, the process needs to be followed. The working party does not tell the EC what to do. Should give three months for a report back from working party.
* Sandra: Confused, overturning National Council
* Paul R: Second Tony’s proposal.

*Jan responded to inform members that H&SC have dealt with assisted dying in the past when legislation has arisen. This is not overturning National Council, it is recognising the concerns of members about a webinar on a deeply sensitive, personal and ethical subject; making sure the NPC does it properly and not impacting on other policies to do with health and care.*

Poll on recommendation 1:

30 polled – 28 responses

19 for                    68%

5 against              18%

4 abstain              14%

Poll on recommendation 2:

30 polled – 28 responses

17 for                    61%

7 against              25%

4 abstain              14%

**Report agreed/**

*Point of information for members. The first newsletter from H&SC working party was in 2015. A copy is on the website to download. Page 2 carries an article written in collaboration with Baroness Finlay who at that time was a speaker on assisted dying. The working party has, over the years, monitored the different bills on assisted dying and therefore has a legitimate role to play like any other working party making recommendations to the EC.*

1. **Pensions & Income:** Jan presented the report highlighting the issue of annuities and the areas that are being covered in the briefing on the triple lock.

**Report agreed.**

1. **A.O.B.:**
* Arthur: Annual Convention. *The links to all four webinars are on the website for registration. A press release and up to date information will go out next week to all affiliates.*
1. **Next meeting:** 22 July 2021 @ 10.30 am on Zoom.

**Appendix**

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| Group | First name | Surname |
| Co-optee ME | Antonietta Bortone | Tinney |
| NPC Eastern Region | Tony | Garner |
| Treasurer | Barry | Todman |
| 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 |
| NPC Anglia | Sam | Sirdar |
| UNISON | Rosie | MacGregor |
| General Secretary | Jan | Shortt |
| RMT | Tony | Donaghey |
| NPC West Midlands | Ingrid | Caras-Atlas |
| PCS / ARMS | Sandra | Durkin |
| NUJ | Jenny | Sims |
| co-optee WWP | Meg | McDonald |
| Prospect | Athur | Bavister |
| BTPF | Les | McDowell |
| NPC Wales | Gareth | Parsons |
| NPC Thames Valley | Linda | Richards |
| CWU | Damian | Ibison |
| NPC NW | Alec | McFadden |
| NPC Northern | Roy | Rix |
| Unite | Phil | Wiseman |
| CSPA | David | Luxton |
| NPC Vice President | Ellen | Lebethe |
| NPC London Region | Janet | Shapiro |
| NPC London Region | Janet | Shapiro |
| NPC Home Counties | Allan  | Jeyes |
| NFOP | Steve | Turner |
| NPC GAS | Keith | Evans |
| NARF | Francis | Bryne |
| NPC Campaign Officer | Bev | Morrison |
| NPC Information Officer | Jonathan | Safir |