**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**28 MARCH 2023**

**Apologies:** *(See Appendix)*

**In attendance:** *(See Appendix)*

Rosie welcomed everyone. She asked delegates to remember Terry Carter who passed away recently. Terry was a hard worker, a long-standing member of the North West Region and the NPC Transport Working Party. His experience, knowledge and understanding will be very much missed. One minutes’ silence held in memory of Terry.

A card and flowers to be sent to the family.

1. **Minutes of Meeting on 24 January 2023:**

Agreed

1. **Matters Arising:**

* Clare: Page 1: Prepayment Meters – 94,000 court orders in 2022 with most from British Gas, Scottish Power and Ovo. Relative to the number of customers, Scottish Power had most.
* David Lomakin: Some people not actually in debt as they pay on receipt of a bill.
* Bill: Wondered if it was a way of making people have a smart meter by stealth.

1. **General Secretary Report:**

Some additions since writing the report:

* Spring budget – what was not said – the £500 million given for workforce development in care now halved. Also the funding to integrate care into housing is axed.
* We met with Marie Curie yesterday. A very good meeting and there are areas we can work on such as carers and pensions.
* We now have meetings booked with Paul Nowak, TUC for July and December.

**Questions/comments:**

* Phillip: Support Uniting the Generations. Raise awareness that in 2030 from CPI to CPI(H) which is a lower rate.
* Jenny: House of Lords call for evidence on digital exclusion. Opportunity for Digital WP to contribute. *(Members and Working Parties need to remember that we sometimes only have days to respond. Since the call for evidence was passed to us by the Digital WP, it was possible for them to contribute.)*
* Tony H: Keep the pressure on re: pension age, pension credit and bringing the level of the basic state pension up to the level of the new state pension.
* David L: House of Lords not up to date with digital progress.

1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Steve added to his report that the audit had taken place and everything is OK and signed off. The final accounts will be presented to the National Council. Income generation is to be discussed with Officers. The National Council would be asked to formally adopt the budget for the year.

Bill asked about the 250 Club – how many members and cost. Steve responded saying that we would pitch it low to start with in terms of cost of ticket. Individuals can purchase multiple numbers if they so wish. The scheme is subject to the Finance Working Party approval at their next meeting.

1. **Energy For All:**

At the Warm This Winter event in December last year, the NPC signed up in principle to a Manifesto on Energy For All. The Manifesto has been circulated with the two areas of concern highlighted. It does cover most of our policies on energy related issues.

**Questions/comments:**

* Gareth: paragraph 5: Who carried out the survey and how they came to 75%
* Tony O’B: There are a number of organisations active in the Fuel Poverty Coalition. The government is not going to meet its climate change targets.
* Meg: It does not specify energy being taken into public ownership. *(It is a policy of NPC, and signing the Manifesto does not stop us working on that policy).*
* Clare: It might have been a sample group in the poll, then extrapolated to cover the population.
* Tony H: Surveys are designed to take sample groups.

**Poll Vote:**  Should NPC be a signatory to the Manifest?

94% for 0% against 6% abstentions

Jan will write to ask for a response to our previous questions and add paragraph 5.

*(We have now received a response which is attached to these minutes.)*

1. **National Public Affairs Manager Report:**

Bev and Jonathan have been concentrating on the work on the Commissioner for Older People & Ageing in England with many meetings to sort out invitations, graphics, social media, launch and the drop in for MPs. This is a unique collaboration between the four largest organisations representing older people.

We are asking members to write to their MP asking them to sign up to the Consensus Statement regarding a Commissioner for Older People & Ageing and to attend our drop in on 17 April in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House from 3.00 until 5.00pm

Members can sign up individually now and Jan encouraged them to do so. This is an NPC policy and should be supported be everyone.

Thanks to the Commissioners for Wales and Northern Ireland for their support and input.

Media presence is still high.

**Questions/comments:**

Tony G: 17th April. *This is for MPs to drop in when they can to get information, ask questions, be asked to support the Consensus Statement and sign up for a Commissioner in England. We will need their names for security reasons.*

Jenny: Annual Convention and Digital Poverty Alliance. *They have been invited.*

**5 MINUTE BREAK**

1. **National Administration/Information Manager Report:**

Jonathan had nothing to add to his report. Bev thanked Jonathan for his hard work on social media and other areas of the campaign for a Commissioner.

Phillip promoted Easyfundraising as an easy way for members who shop online to have a donation given to the NPC. It costs nothing extra. Jonathan explained that there is a ‘widget’ that you can add to the extensions on your device when you sign up to Easyfundraising that connects to their site automatically, so you don’t have to sign in to get a donation.

Rosie thanked Bev and Jonathan for the comprehensive work on the Commissioner for Older People & Ageing on top of all the other things they do.

1. **Working Party Reports:**

Rosie reminded members that reports are for noting unless something has arisen since the report was written and that member will have read them.

1. **Digital:** Can’t always assume everyone had read reports. Looking for anything of interest from members and what you think of the content of the newsletter. Digitalisation of health is being discussed with the Chair from Health & Social Care.

* North Staffs are inviting members in for basic introduction to computers
* Mobile firms moving from 3 & 4G systems
* Parking by App by the end of the year
* Network News produced by the Digital Support Group in Derby.
* NHS digitalisation – cost of living means people can’t afford broadband and devices. Older people and others who have no mobile phone or digital devices are excluded.
* Pilot to train staff.

1. **Finance:** Les informed the meeting that Trionic are prepared to support NPC. They are manufacturers of equipment to enable people to get out in rough terrain. They would pay £2,000 for an advertisement in the Campaign News as a taster and if the outcome is good, they will do more. Their involvement is not against the interests of NPC and is supported by FWP

A second sponsor is willing to match the offer. Mindful Memorials offer specifically designed funerals.

There is also a nationally based sponsor and we are waiting for their proposals.

**Questions/comments:**

* Sandra: Trionic is straight forward as we are not supporting their product. Worried about the funeral sponsor – is it pre-paid funerals? There have been issues around these recently.
* Clare: Concern over the funeral services. What does it mean – direct mail? Need to safeguard members.
* Tony H: Careful not to do too much advertising.
* Mike: Secretary of FWP. Mindful Memories has just come in and we thought it should be raised here. It is not a pre-payment plan. Agree Trionic and FWP to research the second offer.
* Bev: Trionic is a half-page advert on the back page. We are looking at a Lifestyle Magazine which can carry a variety of
* stories.
* Bill: £2,000 for how long?
* Steve Turner: National Association of Funeral Directors or the Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors – if you buy from a member of these you will not lose money.

Les responded and appreciated the advice. Trionic is a one-off to test the market. If it goes well, it could be on a longer term basis. He assured the meeting that we would never share names and addresses. Mindful Memorials would be on the same basis as Trionic. We brought it here today to let you know there are people interested in the NPC. We can do more research.

Rosie called for a vote: Accept Trionic and more research on second proposal.

**Vote:**  91% for 3% against 6% abstentions

1. **Health & Social Care:**  nothing to add:

Jenny asked why digital exclusion was not under the heading of ‘main weaknesses’. Jan said that digital inclusion was an ongoing issue which is discussed throughout the NPC and would no doubt be discussed again at a joint meeting.

Bev impressed upon members the enormous problems in health and care and that the working party were rationalising their workload.

iv **Housing:** The report highlighted that two members had left the Working Party. The EC agreed that the General Secretary should circulate the vacancies to affiliates.

* Rosie raised concern regarding paragraph 3. Working Parties have a specific role and nominated members. They are not open to other NPC members as such, except where there is a webinar or other session agreed to take place.
* Clare: More and more older people are in private rental. The Working Party should not assume that speakers need large audiences.
* Tony H: need information on owner occupiers, privately owned rentals and social housing. Meg said Age UK and various organisations had done research and figures were available.

Tony said the workload in the Working Party was high, policies existed and should be implemented.

Jan said that the Working Party is meant to keep up to date with issues relating to housing and older people. There needed to be more communication through press releases briefings etc. Marching is only one element of campaigning – it doesn’t pay the bills – it takes resources. At this moment, our members are struggling with the cost of living (including the cost of travelling to events); some still fear gatherings of people; others are willing but their health does not allow them to participate. We have to accept that each individual is different.

Rosie asked the EC to note the report in the light of her concern over paragraph 3.

The General Secretary will attend a future meeting of the Housing Working Party to recap on its role and remit and what the NPC needs from the expertise within it.

The report was noted.

1. **LGBT:** Liz (Chair) had text Jan to apologise for non-attendance as she was ill today.

Nothing to add.

1. **Minority Elders:** Ellen explained that it was felt a discussion was need on the title of the Working Party as it did not reflect the diversity of our membership.
2. **Pensions & Income:**  The figures for inflation are those in the GS report – this report was written before release.

* Philp: The 10.1% does not make up for last year’s increase and is much less than inflation.
* Rosie: Women’s pensions – the impact on the gender pension gap.
* Tony O’B: Uprising in France over pension age. Unite has a lobby of parliament and campaign ’68 Too Late’ *(NPC already involved).* Need to be out there.
* Tony H: It is unfortunate that some people made decisions many years ago that now affects their pension rights.
* Allan J: Young people need to organise.
* Clare: We should not forget the UK has had months of strike action, co-ordinated and other protests. These have an eventual impact on government decisions. The media show the protests in France but few cover the UK protests. Strikes will continue for some Trade Unions. We have to remember also, France did not have Thatcher and her reform laws. Article 49.3 in France is about democratically made decisions. Pension age legislation went through without parliament.

1. **Structure:** Nothing to add.
2. **Trade Union:** Nothing to add.
3. **Transport:** Noted

* Conference arranged for 17 June in York with various speakers from across the UK, including NPC General Secretary. Motion to National Council for NPC support.
* Owen: The outer regions of West Midlands are being decimated. Ticket office closures – need to make more of it.
* Meg: London report on digitalisation of transport.
* Mike: Impact on computerisation in travel is throughout the country.
* Tony G: Online tickets and ticket machines are not always the best. More options in ticket offices.
* Alan J: Online tickets are for specific trains. Ticket prices/options etc an absolute minefield.

1. **Women’s Working Party:**  Meg explained that Ruby had had to leave the meeting and she would present the report. She also asked if at alternate EC meetings, the Working Party Reports could be taken from the end of the alphabet.The WP had discussed the various reports from Trade Unions, TUC Women’s Conference and have prepared a draft statement for adoption on acceptable behaviour.

Jan thanked the Women’s Working Party for the statement. The NPC needs a Code of Conduct and process and this is a start. We will pass to the Structure Working Party for further work in order that we can ensure that the whole of the NPC is covered. Whatever policy comes out of this work will need to go the next Biennial Delegate Conference.

1. **A.O.B:**
2. Tony G: Questions on the Special Delegate Conference/Annual Convention. This will be sorted outside of this meeting.
3. Consultation on 2024 BDC and Annual Convention – should the closing date be after the June event to see what the issues are.

Jan responded to say we could not delay it further because if the outcome is to do two events in 2024, we will have to find a venue for March. The schedule for the BDC starts in July 2023.

1. Rosie was congratulated on her chairing of a difficult meeting.
2. **Next Meeting: 23 May 2023**

**Appendix**

**Apologies**

David Vickers (RCN), Francis Byrne (NARF), Damian Ibison (CWU),

David Luxton (CSPA, Geoff Page (USDAW), Peter Rayner (NPC Honorary Vice President), Kevin Fradley (NPC Yorkshire & Humberside), Liz Curr (LGBT co-optee), John Martin (NPC Northern Ireland), Tom James (NPC Wessex), Martin Dent (NPC Northern)

**Attendees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **First name** | **Surname** |
| FNP-CISL (GB) | Antonietta | Bortone-Tinney |
| NPC Eastern Region | Tony | Garner |
| PCS | Tony | Conway |
| NPC Treasurer | Steve | Whitehead |
| NPC General Secretary | Jan | Shortt |
| NPC Deputy General Secretary | Linda | Richards |
| Unite | Tony | O'Brien |
| NPC London Region | Angela | Banner |
| NPC Honorary Vice President | Marion | Wilson |
| NPC Honorary President | Ron | Douglas |
| NPC Vice President | Barry | Todman |
| NPC Vice President | Norman | Jemison |
| NPC Vice President | Ellen | Lebethe |
| NPC Vice President | Sandra | Durkin |
| NPC President | Rosie | MacGregor |
| NFOP | Steve | Turner |
| NPC Wales | Gareth | Parsons |
| NASUWT FRMA | Roger | Darke |
| ASLEF | Bill | Dale |
| Equity | Louis | Rolston |
| NPC Thames Valley | Tony | Hall |
| CSPA | Mike | Sparham |
| NPC Home Counties North | Allan | Jeyes |
| NPC South East (SENPEC) | David | Lomakin |
| BTPF | Les | McDowell |
| NPC Women's WP co-optee | Ruby | Cox |
| NPC Women's WP co-optee | Meg | McDonald |
| NPC West Midlands | Owen | Sloss |
| UCU | Phillip | Burgess |
| NPC Yorks & Humber | Fran | Postlethwaite |
| NUJ | Jenny | Sims |
| NPC GAS | Keith | Evans |
| NPC NW region | Harry | Brett |
| NPC Anglia | Chris | Brooks |
| NPC East Midlands | Clare | Wilkins |
| NPC National Public Affairs Manager | Bev | Morrison |
| NPC National Administration & Information Manager | Jonathan | Safir |