



MINUTES of the AGM of Norfolk Branch of NARPO

Thursday 16th March 2023

Aldiss Park Football Club, Dereham

Attendance

Chairman: Stan Watkinson
Secretary: Helen Wickens MBE
Treasurer: Jane Stevens
Committee:
Malcolm Chubbock, Ian Taylor, Pete Boddy, Mark Scott

Regional NEC Members : Mr Bob Mabbutt
Approximately 28 members were also in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from : Bert Herrington, Mike Cox, Tom Hodge, Brian Pincher, Alan Smith, Kate Hill and Peter Fraser.

NEC No 4 Regional Member Mr Brian Burdus

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Regional NEC Member Mr Bob Mabbutt. He led a silent tribute to all colleagues who had passed away during the past year. The Chairman read out their names.

3. Annual General Meeting 2021 and 2022

There were no Meetings held in 2021 and 2022 due to Covid restrictions. The accounts and reports of the Chairman and Secretary were all published in the Branch Newsletters.

4. Any Questions re 2021 and 2022

The Chairman invited any questions re the previous years when no AGM took place. There were no questions raised.

5. Chairman's Address – Mr Stan Watkinson

The Chairman delivered his report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. He thanked the Chief Constable for allowing our Committee Meetings to be held at the Force Training Centre, Hethersett, without charge and for supporting a uniform presence at member's funerals, if requested.

He touched on the most recent court appeal for Pensions for life for widow(er)s which was sadly dismissed.

He also mentioned the increased costs in attending the National Conference and he assured members that every attempt is made to keep the costs to the minimum.

He thanked Eric Bradley for his hard work in updating membership records, which was no mean task and the hospital visitors with a particular mention to the work of Dave Gerrard in this respect. He continued by thanking Helen Wickens for returning to the Secretary's post and to Jane Stevens for the tremendous work she does as Treasurer.

He went on to talk about the Committee Members who were retiring from the Committee this time. Firstly he highlighted Bert Herrington who was relinquishing the President Role. He will be 90 this year and served on the Committee as a member, chairman and president. Also Mike Cox MBE who was the Vice Chairman and also the Branch Representative on the Benevolent Fund, Tom Hodge, a much loved longstanding member of the Committee. Finally Pete Body, who was present and was presented with a custom made lapel pin. All, those not present will be presented with their lapel pins in due course, as a token of their work.

In appreciation of the work Denis Collen does each year as an examiner of the accounts, the Chairman presented him with a bottle of wine. Alan Smith the second examiner who could not be present will receive a similar thank you.

6. Secretary's Report – Mrs Helen Wickens MBE

The Secretary delivered her report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. She began by commenting on the fact at the last AGM held in 2020 and just before the Covid lockdown she had passed the Secretary's baton on. But due to decisions taken by her successors she was happy to resume the post again to support the Chairman and the Branch. However, there is still a need to forward plan to find a prospective future secretary and to ensure they have the full understanding of how the Branch works and the workload etc. falling to the Secretary.

She went on to outline some of the social activities that are being researched for the forthcoming year and also reported that the Force is re-inventing the Force Family day at the Showground and NARPO has been invited to have a stand which has been accepted. The date for diary is Saturday 10th June 2023.

Helen moved on to inform the meeting about a review conducted by the National President into the legal structure of NARPO to ensure it is fit for purpose. The current legal structure is a not for profit unincorporated association which has been the case over the last 100 years and the most common legal structure for organisations of our kind over that period of time. It does mean that individual members of the association are personally responsible for debts, liabilities and contracts and it is possible the professional indemnity insurance may not cover the full or any costs of a claim that may be brought against a Branch.

NARPO advisors have suggested the best structure using modern legislation is to become a Company by Limited Guarantee. She outlined in simple terms how this would fit NARPO and the protection of individual Committee members against personal liability.

The NEC have organised 5 seminars across the country to provide information to all Branches and she and Stan have attended one. If the country was happy for the NEC to pursue this path it may be at the Conference in 2024 when a motion will be brought to get authority to make the change. Helen concluded this subject by asking if any member has expertise or knowledge of Incorporation to contact her as she would welcome their knowledge.

Helen concluded by thanking the Membership for their support throughout the year and also the Branch Committee and of course her thanks to Stan and Jane. She sent her personal thanks to Bert Herrington who had been the Chairman at the time she joined the Committee 20 years ago, and she sent her best wishes to Mike, Tom and Pete.

She invited any questions.

Simon Gorton asked if the Professional Indemnity Insurance was good enough.

Helen responded that the NEC arranged this cover but the concern was that insurance companies tend to search for reasons why they wouldn't pay out, or indeed any judgement against us could be over the maximum limit of affordable cover.

7. Treasurer's report & presentation of Accounts 2022

The Treasurer, Mrs Jane Stevens, presented her third report together with the balance sheet which had been circulated to all present. A copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

Jane reported on the Income which totalled £26,259.00 and explained the different headings which make up that total. The total expenditure for the year was £23,791.00 which means there was a surplus of £2,467.53 for the year. She highlighted some of the expenditure headings, explaining the difference between 2021 and 2022.

She also outlined the income from tickets and costs of running the various social events held during 2022

Jane explained that it is her intention to ensure we spend most if not all of our annual income on our members and on running the Branch without overspending. She reported that the total monies in the bank at 31st December 2022 was £60,848.29

Jane invited any questions and there were none and the accounts were unanimously accepted.

8. Election of Officers

The Secretary, Helen Wickens took the Chair and the election of officers followed:

- a) Chairman: Mr Stan Watkinson was the current post holder and was willing to stand again. Pete Boddy proposed Stan Watkinson, seconded by Harry Carlton. There were no other nominations and Mr Stan Watkinson was duly elected and he resumed the chair.
- b) Secretary: Mrs Helen Wickens MBE was the current post holder and was willing to stand again. Mr Eric Bradley proposed Mrs Helen Wickens, seconded by Mrs Jane Stevens. There were no other nominations. Mrs Helen Wickens MBE was duly elected.
- c) Treasurer: Mrs Jane Stevens was the current post holder and willing to stand again. Proposed by Mrs Helen Wickens and seconded by Mr Jim Hardy. There were no other nominations and Mrs Jane Stevens was duly elected.
- d) Vice Chairman: Mr Mike Cox MBE had been the post holder and has retired. Mr Eric Bradley proposed Mr Malcom Chubbock, seconded by Mr Pete Boddy. There were no other nominations. Mr Chubbock was duly elected.
- e) Assistant Secretary: This post was vacant. Mr Malcolm Chubbock proposed Mr Eric Bradley, seconded by Mr Ian Taylor. There were no other nominations. Mr Eric Bradley was duly elected.

f) Committee Members

Mrs Helen Wickens read out the following list of names who were not post holders but current Committee Members, all of whom were willing to serve on the Committee again:

Mr Ian Taylor, Mr Brian Pincher, Mark Scott

The Chairman asked if the Meeting was happy to elect them en bloc for another year, which was unanimously agreed.

g) Examiners of the Accounts

Mr Denis Collen and Mr Alan Smith were the current examiners and both were willing to continue with this role which was unanimously agreed.

9. NEC – Brief Update

Mr Bob Mabbutt apologised for the absence of Brian Burdus whose wife had had a fall so Brian was unable to attend. He talked about the 2022 National Conference which had been cancelled due to the sad death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II on the eve of Conference. Other subjects he touched on was NARPO national training for Branch Officers and for HQ staff, widow(er)s pension for Life, Police Treatment Centres and finally the National Police Memorial Day to be held on 1st October in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mabbutt for his attendance and update.

There were no other matters to report and no further questions from those present.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm