

North Staffordshire National Trust Association
Minutes of the 39th AGM at the N Staffs Conference Centre, 21st May 2019 at 7.00pm

Richard Adams welcomed members to the AGM and recorded 7 apologies from members.

Chairman's remarks: Ralph White reported that we had had a very successful year with many events. He thanked Jane Mayer for co-ordinating our events programme so well for the last four years, and he thanked John Spriggs for all his work on the newsletter and on our website, Ralph encouraged members to look at the website, especially the new "stop press" area where updates and new information can now be found. He asked members to ensure that they now give contact details of a friend or family member to trip organisers, for use in emergency.

The Minutes of the 38th AGM: No questions were asked. Richard asked that the minutes should be accepted - all present agreed.

Secretary's report: Membership is currently 362. We have had a busy year, with a total of 24 events to enjoy, including 4 coach outings, 7 car trips, 3 walks, 8 talks, the Christmas dinner, and our holiday in London. Thanks to all who have organised events, and to members for attending.

Treasurer's report: Huw Davies thanked Madeleine Hopley, the previous treasurer, for an easy transition and all the help she has given him. He presented the accounts for 2018-19, copies of which had been distributed.

Huw noted that our reserves are £7,000, in line with last year. This level is desirable to allow for unexpected costs, especially should an urgent appeal for funds be made by one of our local properties. We made smaller donations to the National Trust than last year, and costs are rising, in particular hire of the hall for talks and postage costs. This year's holiday is expected to produce a surplus of around £1,000, less than before as we are using a travel company rather than organising it all ourselves. Huw thanked James Scott of Hardings Accountants for examining the accounts for us. There were no questions, and the meeting accepted the accounts.

Subscription level for next year: Richard reported that subscriptions were last increased four years ago. Committee had discussed the level of subscription required to maintain donations, and propose an increase to £12 per year for individual members, and £8 for further members at the same address. The meeting agreed to this, to take effect from January 2020.

Election of Officers and Committee: In accordance with the constitution, committee members who have served for 5 years or more must seek approval to stand for re-election; there were eight who wished to stand again – Richard Adams, Roger Carlidge, Sue Corlett, Cynthia Dumbelton, Sue Till, Rose Wheat, Ralph White and Bob Winter. The meeting agreed that these could stand. Nominations from the room were sought but none were made. Five further committee members stood for re-election: Huw Davies, Marion Lycett, Jane Mayer, David Morgan and John Spriggs. All the above were elected or re-elected unanimously.

AOB: Richard Mayer proposed a vote of thanks to John for the newsletters and website. Agreed. Marion Lycett was introduced to the meeting as our new programme co-ordinator. Ralph thanked the meeting for re-electing him as our chairman. However, he gave advance notice that he will not be seeking re-election at next year's AGM. Members are invited to consider if they are the one to take on this rewarding role.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.