

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Minutes of the 42nd AGM at the N Staffs Conference Centre, 24th May 2022 at 7.00pm

Richard Adams welcomed members to the AGM and recorded 3 apologies from members.

Chairman's opening remarks: Ralph looked forward to better times ahead, and was confident that we have already made a good start to our 43rd year. He thanked committee members and event organisers for all their enthusiasm and contributions to the Association, often going the extra mile to help out. He was very pleased to report on a successful meeting with Hilary McGrady last month when she came to our meeting. Hilary had done her homework, and knew that we have raised in excess of [£140,000] for the National Trust over the years. She was able to introduce us to the Chief Operations Officer, a "man who gets things done", who has already helped us to secure extra funding for donations and identifying local projects needing support. Ralph spoke of the drop in our membership numbers over the last two years, for all the usual reasons and exacerbated by Covid and perhaps the current increase in cost of living. He encouraged everyone to spread the word about us to friends and family. He reminded that guests are always welcome to join a trip or event, and that this will often result in a new membership application. The future is in our hands!

The Minutes of the 41st AGM: Were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Secretary's report: The Association continues to rebuild its programme of events. We did a lot of walking last summer, when outdoor events were permitted ahead of indoor meetings. The talks programme successfully restarted in September, and car and coach outings are also now getting good support. The recent holiday to Scotland was a great success. Unfortunately, our Christmas meal had to be cancelled, but has been rebranded as a summer party and Jubilee celebration next month. As ever, full credit is due to Marion Lycett and her team of organisers, who have been busy arranging, and often re-arranging, events for us. Membership is currently 295, about 7% down from last year.

Treasurer's report: Huw thanked James Scott of Hardings Accountants for examining the accounts for us. He then presented the accounts for 2021-22, copies of which had been distributed. Huw noted that our income has increased, especially from members' subscriptions which were of course not requested last year during Covid. Income from trips is now beginning to come in again. Our reserves are now over £12,000. No donations have been made during the year. A member asked for details on gross income for trips and events; Huw explained that gross income was £3180, monies paid out £2176, to give the £1004 surplus recorded in the accounts. The meeting voted to accept the accounts.

Subscription level for next year: The meeting agreed to keep subscriptions for 2023 at the same rate as before, that is £12 per year for individual members, and £8 for further members at the same address.

Approvals for re-election to committee: The majority of our current committee members have served for 5 years or more, so by our constitution must seek approval to stand for re-election; the meeting agreed that they could stand.

Nominations for officers and committee. Ralph White had been nominated for the office of chairman, Rose Wheat for vice-chairman, Huw Davies as treasurer, and Richard Adams as secretary. Roger Cartlidge, Cynthia Dumbelton, Marion Lycett, Jane Mayer, John Spriggs, Sue Till and Bob Winter had also been nominated as candidates for re-election to the committee. Further nominations from the room were sought, but none were made. All of the above officers and committee members were elected by an overwhelming show of hands.

AOB: David Lovatt proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their work on behalf of the Association, which was carried unanimously. He also asked that we continue to press the National Trust for more publicity for supporter groups such as ours; this is an ongoing issue which all groups are involved in.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.