

Minutes of the Country Link Annual General Meeting
held on
Sunday 1st May 2022
at
The Palace Hotel, Buxton

Charles Humby welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Lorraine Clark, Sarah Thompson, Graham Vaughan, Jackie Jackson, Ken Phillips, Claire Amy, David Leal

The Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 9th June 2019

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting.

Matters arising if not on the Agenda

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report - Charles Humby

Charles thanked Maria Guest, Phil Charles and Liz Goodwin for arranging this Weekend which had been delayed for two years due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Dorset and Avon Country Link groups have closed. We must find different ways of attracting new members, and word of mouth seems to be the best method. Charles suggested drip feeding the advertising in local papers, with the occasional article/photo. National is making £500 available per group for advertising.

Subscriptions will remain at £10.

Charles suggested that groups get together to organise a Weekend, and said there are no Weekends planned after this one.

The survey carried out at the Corby Weekend showed that members want the Weekends away, together with walks, meals out and garden visits.

Having programmes on the website allows members to visit other groups if they are away.

Gill Tweddle has resigned as the North West Regional Representative, so if anyone is interested, please come forward.

Charles asked for a new website co-ordinator as Maria is standing down.

He thanked George Greaves, Valda Gazzard and Gill Tweddle for all their hard work.

Treasurer's Report - Lesley Sheaf

Lesley told members that the analysis from the questionnaire at the Corby Weekend, and that the accounts for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were being circulated in the room.

Lesley went through the accounts for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

John Mort, Treasurer of Cornwall Country Link, raised the issue of members paying National Subscriptions during the pandemic when they were not meeting. It was explained by Charles and Lesley that some groups had met for outdoor events and Charles had kept members informed about Subscriptions via the Chairman's Chat. The matter was discussed; John Warwick commented that it was only £10 and that it was time to move on; his comments were applauded.

The accounts have been audited by Kate Greaves, and she has offered to do the 2022 accounts; Lesley is very grateful, and Liz G has thanked Kate.

Lesley proposed the accounts; Tony Paul seconded.

The advertising budget will remain at £500; Lesley will refund the Group on production of an invoice or will pay an invoice directly.

National Subscriptions will remain at £10 for 2022.

Charles thanked Lesley and Martin for analysing the questionnaire. Lesley thanked the Committee and Vice Presidents for their help.

Secretary's report - Liz Goodwin

Liz said that communication is more important than ever as we move forward after Covid 19.

She asked if any of the Groups had a new Organiser, and to let her know after the Meeting. Any information is emailed to the Organisers for them to cascade to members.

Liz explained that Lorraine Clark is planning to organise days out; as not many members had seen the email Liz had sent round, she said she would send it again.

She finished by asking everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

President's comments - Nigel Swain

Nigel explained his time as President had come to an end; he said it had been an enjoyable time and he thanked everyone for their support.

Election of Officers to the National Committee

| Position | Nominee | Nominated by | Carried |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Chairman | Peter Hunt | Lorna Griffin/Peter Hurt | |
| | | Charles Humby/Linda Pearce | Yes |
| Secretary | Liz Goodwin | Tony Paul/Lorraine Clark | Yes |
| Treasurer | Lesley Sheaf | Maria Guest/Sarah Thompson | Yes |

President/Vice Presidents

Charles told members that Peter Hurt had agreed to become President, and the Vice Presidents are Jerry White, Maria Guest and Phil Charles; Charles thanked them all.

Charles thanked Nigel for being a Vice President (from 2006) and President (from 2011). He thanked Nigel for all of his work behind the scenes and in front; Nigel thanked Charles.

Peter took over as Chair of the Meeting

Peter thanked Charles for all that he had done.

Forthcoming weekends

Phil explained that Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Country Links would be organising a Weekend at the Holiday Inn, South Normanton (junction 28) for the weekend of Friday 28th-Monday 31st October 2022. There will be one form and one payment by August; it will be on the website, and hard copies will be sent to those who do not have Internet access.

Chairman Peter thanked Derbyshire for organising another Weekend, and presented the key to Wendy Sale of Derbyshire Country Link.

Tony Paul said he may have something in the pipeline for May 2023.

Chairman Peter asked members to think about Autumn 2023.

Any other business

Chairman Peter asked members to think about taking on the website; Wendy Swain asked if Vicky Hutton had been asked.

Elaine Burgess asked how many members there are; Lesley said there were 190.

Dick Stephenson is walking the Cotswold Way to raise money for charity; he can be sponsored through a Just Giving page.

John Mort commented that the Weekends are popular; Jo Whittaker suggested that the Committee organise the Weekends - Maria and Phil have the expertise and could support others. Chairman Peter said he would discuss it with the National Committee, but did suggest that Groups come together.

Date of the next AGM - at the Spring 2023 weekend

