

**Minutes of the Country Link Annual General Meeting**  
**held on**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**at**  
**Knights Hill Hotel, Kings Lynn**

Peter Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting; the National Committee introduced themselves.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Sarah Thompson, Graham Vaughan, Vicky Hutton, Jerry White, Ros Hardy, Jackie Jackson, Ken Phillips

The Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022

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

**Chairman's Report - Peter Hunt**

Peter hoped everyone had enjoyed themselves at the weekend, and he thanked the Essex & Suffolk and Norfolk groups for organising a splendid weekend.

There are currently eighteen Country Link clubs; the programmes are on the website. The website is an important aspect of Country Link and is our window to the world, with programmes, reports and photographs to show prospective new members what the organisation is about.

In 2019, there were three hundred and ninety members; in 2022 there were two hundred and ninety seven members; we need to build up the membership.

National and local advertising are important, and the National Committee would welcome any suggestions for advertising; this can be done via the Regional Representatives. There is £500 per group available for advertising.

Peter asked that the group organisers contact information be kept up the date as they are the link between the National Committee and the members.

**Treasurer's Report - Lesley Sheaf**

The number of members has declined since 2019, and we have a lot of work to do to get the figures back to pre-pandemic levels.

Three groups in the south west area have taken advantage of the advertising money, and Lesley would like to see more groups doing so.

The website address is now '.co.uk'.

Derbyshire Country Link had donated £1,000 to Cancer Research UK.

There are no deposits out with hotels.

Lesley went through the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which show a small deficit of £117.68 and net assets of £21,934. As we have decided to advertise in the NFU Countryside magazine throughout 2023 we anticipate a larger deficit for 2023 so reducing our reserves. Lesley thanked Kate Greaves for carrying out the audit of these accounts.

Lesley proposed the adoption of the accounts; Wendy Sw seconded; passed.

Lesley proposed the National Subscription remain at £10.00 for 2024; seconded by Maria G; passed.

Lesley proposed the advertising budget remain at £500; seconded by Tony P; passed.

Peter thanked Lesley for her hard work.

**Secretary's report - Liz Goodwin**

Liz thanked the Essex & Suffolk and Norfolk groups for photocopying the Minutes of the 2022 AGM and the Agenda for this Meeting, and putting them in the welcome packs.

She reminded members that she sends out information about weekends, updates, Lorraine's days etc out to the organisers and asks them to cascade it to their members, so it is important for her to have up to

date contact information - she asked if any of the group organisers had recently changed, then to let her have the new information.

Communication is an issue, and she asked if anyone had any ideas about how to make communication between the National Committee and the members more efficient then to please let her know.

WhatsApp had been suggested previously, but everyone needs a smart phone, it may not work with so many members, and it is difficult to attach documents to a WhatsApp message.

There was a discussion about WhatsApp, but members were reluctant to be added to a group because their ph number would be visible.

President's comments - Peter Hurt

Peter explained he had taken over a year ago. He praised Nigel, saying he had done a marvellous job as President, and he thanked the Committee. He said Saturday night had been a great night and had raised a lot of money for Parkinsons; he was pleased Country Link has carried on, but we cannot be complacent.

Election of Officers to the National Committee

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Carried
Chairman	Peter Hunt	Peter Hurt/John Greasley	Yes
Vice Chairman	Dick Stephens	Caroline Heath/Robyn Heath Phil Stubbs/Charlotte Shelley Kirsteen Henry/Jimmy Young John Rowlands/Arthur Preston	

Wendy Sw asked Dick to introduce himself; Dick replied that Peter had done a nice steady job, and that he would like to make changes to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as we are still in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Voting - one against; five abstentions

Treasurer	Lesley Sheaf	Phil Charles/Tony Paul	Yes
Secretary	Liz Goodwin	Dick Stephens/Sue Chilton	Yes

President/Vice Presidents

The President - Peter Hurt - and the Vice Presidents - Phil Charles, Maria Guest, Jerry White - had been asked to stand for the next twelve months; all had agreed. Peter thanked them on behalf of the National Committee for their support over the past year.

Forthcoming weekends

Autumn 2023 - Kirsteen Henry gave the details of the Weekend: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>-Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at The Riverside Lodge, Irvine. The cost is £240.00 plus trips; the payment can be made in one or two parts. There will be a fancy dress disco on the Friday night, black tie disco on the Saturday night, and the Members Meeting will be on the Sunday afternoon.

Tony handed the key to Kirsteen.

Spring 2024 - Robyn and Caroline Heath are looking at hotels, but have no venue/date. Peter asked for volunteers for Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025.

Any other business

Lorraine talked about the days out she is organising; these are open to current and possible new members; the June visit is to Shugborough Hall and Gardens; the July visit is to the Anderton Boat Lift. Lorraine confirmed she is happy to have her contact information on the website.

The President's Cup was presented to Ayrshire Country Link for having maintained their numbers from 2019-2022.

Nigel uses WhatsApp; it's a wonderful tool, but can't be used for the transfer of documents - email is the most effective way. John W agreed it's a useful tool. Chairman Peter suggested it be used to tell members to expect an email.

Wendy Sa suggested using MeetUp as a means of communication; it can be private and can be used by each group or by National. Peter invited Wendy to the National Committee Meeting to show how it can be used.

Date of the next AGM - at the Spring 2024 weekend

The Meeting closed at 6.00pm