

Minutes of the Country Link Members Meeting
held on
Sunday 30th October 2016
at the Gilsland Hall Hotel, Gilsland, Brampton, Cumbria

Abbreviated version

Tony welcomed everyone to the Meeting 'at this brilliant hotel'.

Apologies were received from four members.

Sam, from Eden Valley Hospice, explained that the Hospice is 25 years old this year, and that it is a wonderful, happy, positive place where people can go for comfort and support; Jigsaw is the Children's Hospice. He thanked Country Link for inviting him along and for the fund raising activities they had organised.

Tony introduced the National Committee.

The **Minutes** of the Members Meeting held on 25th October 2015 were approved and signed. Liz thanked Cumbria members for photocopying the Agenda and the Minutes.

There were **no matters arising** that were not covered on the Agenda.

Chairman's Report - Tony welcomed everyone to his first Meeting as National Chairman, he thanked Maria for her sterling work over the last three years, and welcomed Charles as the new National Vice Chairman. He hoped with 'the support of the members, the superb committee, President and Vice Presidents to steer the family of Country Link to further improvements and even expansion'.

Tony pointed out things that are going well: the weekends; the website, and he requested reports and programmes to keep it up to date. He pointed out how important the Area Reps are, as they are the link between the members and the National Committee, on which they have a vote. Tony touched on ways to increase membership through advertising, and having a national figurehead.

Secretary's Report - Liz said she and Tony had begun working together well since Tony had taken on the role of Chairman. She thanked those who had sent their apologies for today and those who had sent reports to the National Committee Meetings. On the business side, she requested any changes in organisers details, thanked the organisers for distributing the Minutes and Agenda ahead of this Meeting, and asked everyone to sign the register. It was agreed to put the Agenda and Minutes on the website.

Treasurer's Report - Lesley made a request for outstanding subscriptions.

Advertising - Lesley is expecting advertising costs from the clubs; she explained that some groups were joining together and sharing advertising costs. She suggested winter time is a good time to advertise locally.

Insurance - the cost has gone down because there are less groups.

Website - this is a big expense, but a good way to use funds, and it gets a lot of hits. Helen is very cost effective, and Maria works hard to keep the website up to date.

Membership - there are 452 members.

Advertising refund - the Committee had agreed to increase this to £300 per group in 2017.

Martin proposed the National Committee use some of the funds to buy each club a banner/pull up sign; he also suggested car sunscreens and magnetic strips for cars.

Website editor's report - Maria showed the website, and made a request for up to date programmes and contact details; she also asked for reports and photos from the different groups.

Any other business - Regarding advertising, it was suggested the most successful way of recruiting new members was by word of mouth. The guidance packs and weekend packs are in the process of being updated, as is the Constitution.

Passing of the Weekend Baton - Gill thanked everyone and said it had been an excellent turn out. Information about the Spring 2017 weekend to be held in Cornwall was given out. Warwickshire Country Link confirmed they will be organising a weekend on the last weekend of October 2017.

Date of the next Members Meeting - Sunday 29th October 2017

Tony closed the Meeting by thanking Cumbria for a fantastic weekend.