

Minutes of the Country Link Members Meeting
held on
Sunday 30th October 2022
at The Holiday Inn, South Normanton

Chairman Peter Hunt welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Apologies - there were no apologies.

Peter introduced himself; members of the National Committee (Lesley S, Liz G, Vicky H), Regional Reps (Andrew S, Sarah T, Lorraine C, Sue C, Dick S, Tony P), and President (Peter H)/Vice Presidents (Maria G, Phil C) introduced themselves

Minutes of the Members Meeting held on Sunday 17th October 2021 were signed as being correct.

Matters arising - there were no matters arising.

Chairman's report - Peter thanked everyone for attending the weekend, and hoped everyone had had a good time. He thanked Derbyshire Country Link for organising the hotel, Nottinghamshire Country Link for organising the trips, and Somerset and Warwickshire Country Links for organising the fund raising. It is important to keep the weekends going, and clubs working together may be the future. Peter is keen to boost recruitment as membership has declined in the last two or three years, and now stands at 282; if we don't recruit, membership could be an issue in the future. He encouraged groups to use the £500 available for advertising, and asked for suggestions of regional and national advertising. He is looking to use the website to increase membership. Together with the most recent programmes, he suggested having pictures with some text of club activities to help to show potential members who we are and what we do.

The Regional Reps are the link between the National Committee and the members.

Peter will use his Chairman's Chat to put out information eg Vicky's contact details as website editor, forthcoming weekends.

Secretary's report - Liz thanked Phil C for putting the welcome packs together. She reminded members how important communication is, and thanked the organisers for cascading the information to their members. She asked that she be told if any organisers had changed recently. Finally, she asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

Treasurer's report - Lesley has received subscriptions from 282 members, and she asked members to contact lapsed members. Somerset/Wiltshire and Somerset/East Devon clubs have taken up the advertising. It is not too late to do so for 2023.

Expenses have been administrative costs for Treasurer and Secretary; meeting costs for two National Committee Meetings and tea/coffee at the Palace Hotel, Buxton; miscellaneous expenses are for the repairs to the owl and bank charges.

Derbyshire Country Link had presented a cheque for £1,000 to Cancer Research UK, Ashbourne.

The National Committee are looking at advertising in the NFU magazine, Farmart

(Cheshire/Derbyshire/Staffordshire area); there needs to be money in the account, but not this amount and it is there to be used for recruitment. Lesley will speak to Vicky, Pat B and Derbyshire Country Link about an editorial in Farmart.

Sharon C asked about leaflets/postcards which had been produced; Maria explained these had all been used, and would need to be updated.

Lesley confirmed that the National Subscription for 2023 will remain at £10; groups can claim up to £500 for advertising; if anyone is interested in a zoodie/hoodie, Lesley asked for their email address, and would let them have the current prices; she made a request for local advertising information. Peter thanked Lesley.

Website - Vicky H has recently taken over as web editor; she made a request for the right contact information for the clubs and for programmes.

Passing of the Weekend Baton - Tony P explained that the Spring Weekend will be from Friday 12th-Monday 15th May 2023 in the Kings Lynn area. Information will be sent out via Liz, Phil and the website. Peter asked members to think about organising a Weekend, and maybe working with another group. Kirsteen H asked if any of the groups had any plans as Ayrshire has a meeting in November to discuss a future Weekend.

Date of the next Members Meeting - to be confirmed.

Any other business - Phil C will contact those not on email with a hard copy of the information for the Spring 2023 Weekend.

Maria commented that we are a wonderful group of people who all come together at the Weekends, and she urged groups to think about joining with another group in the future.

Vicky explained how the photos from the visit to the Fire Station Museum will be on Facebook and that there would be a link from the website.

Peter Hurt explained he had been elected as President at the AGM; he has been in Country Link since the beginning and has been the Chairman and a Vice President. He thanked Maria, Phil, Vicky, Chairman Peter, Liz and Lesley for their hard work.

Suggestions for advertising: ploughing match schedules, County Show programmes, steam fairs.

Wendy Sw commented that it is so important to have current information on the website in the Programmes section.

Sue C wondered about a Facebook page; Nigel explained that there is a link from the website, and Lesley said that it needs to be monitored constantly; Sue said she would look into this.

The Meeting finished at 5.50 pm.