

Conference of the National Association of Language Advisers
Holiday Inn Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, 7 - 9th July 2010

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Item 1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

Item 2 Minutes of the 2009 AGM

The minutes were read and approved

Item 3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Item 4 Officers' reports

President

Jeff Lee presented a written report. JL paid tribute to Peter Hall who had done so much for NALA and whose organisation and sense of purpose had shaped the way the association worked. JL remarked that government cuts were causing distress and anxiety but that NALA was more than ever important as a support and guide to its membership and as a champion of languages in schools. JL offered thanks to the executive for their commitment and hard work. He concluded his remarks by saying that it had been a privilege to serve as president. JL presented to the AGM a change to standing orders in respect of the term of office of the chair and secretary. He proposed that the reference in standing orders to the period of office be deleted. The change was proposed by Phil Dahl and seconded by Pam Haezewindt and was accepted by members unanimously.

Chair

Nikki Perry presented a written report. She remarked that NALA had been honoured to have Jeff Lee as its president. He had safeguarded the constitution and made it coherent. NP praised JL for visiting every region and attending regional meetings during his period of office. The visits have been much appreciated by members.

NP reminded members that her term as chair expired in 2011 and urged them to consider standing for the office. She invited members to attend a meeting of exec to see how it works. As part of her activities, NP mentioned particularly her involvement in judging the European Language Awards and her attendance at the Parliamentary language group at the House of Lords.

NP was pleased to report a growth in membership numbers and thanked the membership secretary for keeping track of the details. She wondered, however, what effect possible cuts in education budgets might have on the membership during the next months. She asked members to send her comments about what issues the executive should be addressing over the coming years.

NP informed the AGM that there would be a new convenor for the South East, namely Dan Alliot and for the North East where Rachel Redfearn and Jim M^oElwee had agreed to share the convenorship. NP thanked Jenny Carpenter and Peter Cummings for their hard work as convenors.

Secretary

Jim M^oElwee announced that he was standing down as secretary after 10 years. He had written his 10th report to Aspect and had recorded the minutes of all the meetings of exec.

Treasurer

Adrian Finbow presented a written report, his last as treasurer after 11 years service in the post. The internal audit of the accounts had been approved without any areas for concern. He had received a cheque from Aspect in respect of their members who were also members of NALA. The finances of the association were in a sound position and there were sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen circumstances.

Membership Secretary

Geoff Swinn thanked AF for helping to sort out the membership records. There was now an up-to-date profile of the membership including different categories of member. GS also thanked David Mee for his prompt response to requests to post information on the website.

Communications Officer

David Mee presented a written report.

There had been more than 50 items posted on Stop Press since last year and this prompted DM to express gratitude to the large number of people who were contributing valuable information. He mentioned in particular Chris Maynard and Joan Hoggan who had kept NALA up to date with important information from QCDA and the British Council.

DM reported changes to the website: a filter had been added to the membership database to allow more effective sorting; there were new links to language associations and links to the home pages of all the awarding bodies, and the website now had a separate conference section. A new home page had been created in order to provide prospective members with more information about the association. DM expressed a huge sense of gratitude to Peter Hall for his expertise, advice and support. NP thanked DM for his report.

Item 5 Appointment of Auditors

AF advised members to defer the appointment of auditors until the new treasurer was in post.

Item 6 Appointment of President of NALA

The appointment of Alan Dobson as president was ratified by the executive. He accepted the appointment and thanked Jeff Lee for his work during his period of office.

Item 7 Elections to National Executive Committee

Treasurer: Alison Gilvey proposed Jenny Carpenter as treasurer and Pam Haezewindt seconded the proposal. Jenny Carpenter was elected treasurer.

Secretary: Jo Peach proposed Chris Maynard as secretary and the proposal was seconded by Phil Dahl. Chris Maynard's appointment was duly confirmed.

Conference Secretary: Jim M^cElwee nominated Alison Gilvey as conference secretary. Jenny Carpenter seconded the proposal and Alison Gilvey was appointed.

Item 8 Any Other Business

Jim Fisher gave an update on the health of Peter Hall. Members expressed both their best wishes to Peter Hall for a speedy recovery and their appreciation of his dedication to NALA over many years.

The meeting finished at 5.30

J. M^cElwee