

**Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Language Advisers  
Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon**

**6 July 2013 08.30-09.00**

**Minutes**

**Item 1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Jo Peach. Nikki Perry thanked all those attending.

**Item 2 Minutes of the 2012 AGM**

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were read and approved as a true record.

**Item 3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 4 Officers' reports**

Written reports (below) were circulated.

**President's report (Alan Dobson)**

Since the last AGM I have

- attended two of the three Executive meetings and remained in informal contact with the elected officers throughout the year
  
- stood in for officers at various national meetings and submitted reports for the website.

I should like to take the opportunity to thank the Chair and the Executive for their continuing commitment and their professionalism in supporting the MFL cause and members' interests.

**Chair's annual report (Nikki Perry)**

I am again delighted that the time and energy that goes into planning a relevant and inspiring conference for our ever diverse membership is being rewarded by a very healthy attendance this year in Stratford and thank everyone who has contributed by giving of their time and expertise to make it a success. I notice we made it to the Twitter airwaves this year!

It has been another challenging year for many since the last AGM with continued uncertainty in education regarding budgets and direction. Although with meetings and dialogues over the years the languages community has pulled together to give more consistent messages, there are fewer opportunities to meet and discuss and NALA is becoming ever more important in the role of giving opportunities for professional dialogue and making sure the latest information is available to members. We are always grateful to members who send information which we can put on the website.

Over the last year, the association has again made significant contributions to the national agenda. Despite fewer national meetings, it has been a busy year and I have responded, on behalf of members, to consultations on A Level, GCSE, the proposed National Curriculum and languages at KS2. After the DfE attendance at the conference last year, NALA was asked to respond to additional questions regarding languages in primary schools.

I have continued to represent the interests of members at events and meetings of ALL, STF, OCR, The APPG on Languages and Language Rich Europe <http://www.language-rich.eu/home/welcome.html> and assisted with the judging of the EULL awards.

Our key partners now are The DfE, The British Council, ALL and The Languages Liaison Group. We have excellent support from the French and Spanish Cultural Institutions which generously provide meeting venues. Through the Speak to the Future campaign we have dialogue with a number of other organisations (for example The British Academy and NALDIC). The British Academy has just entered into partnership with The Guardian in order to promote and support languages which is really good news.

There have been many changes at the DfE but we have maintained good links and although the person we were communicating with has moved to Ofqual she has asked to retain links with NALA for future consultations. I have been invited to the discussions on the new draft subject content for GCSE at the DfE and will be attending one of the Ofqual consultation events. There has been some refocusing of the direction of the STF campaign as the British Academy (which funds it) required more dialogue outside the languages community to convince them of the value of languages. Bernadette Holmes will become the Campaign Director.

I remain appreciative that contacts in various organisations such as The Higher Education Academy, DfE, and TDA (which is now part of the National College of Teaching and Leadership) are always prepared to discuss developments and implications for schools and language professionals with me.

Very sadly CILT ceased to operate in April and we recognise and are grateful for the support former CILT colleagues have given NALA over the years and hope they continue to do so in their new roles. On behalf of the Association I would like to wish them every success in future ventures.

I am glad to report the membership has remained healthy and we continue to welcome new members this year. Convenors play an important role in managing the regional networks and I am pleased to report that activity in the regions, for the most part, is buoyant.

I would like to thank all members for their continued support and communications and would also like to thank the Executive for responding to the need to share the work load amongst fewer people, for their willingness to represent NALA at national meetings and to attend meetings on Saturdays.

Lastly, and possibly a little unusually, I would like to say thank you to the Head at my school, St Bede's College, Manchester, who has allowed me time to go to meetings and who has generously offered a stylish venue to NALA NW members.

### **Secretary's report (Pam Haezewindt)**

Since the last AGM and taking on the position of secretary, I have

- convened three executive meetings and written up and re-drafted minutes; forwarded minutes to the Communications Officer for uploading
- liaised with NP over general matters during this period
- contacted Vicky Gough regarding role as British Council's observer on NALA Executive

- met with JCa and CO'H in London for membership sub-committee meeting on 09/11/2012
- written up notes from afore-mentioned meeting and contacted NP and AD to have a further meeting to discuss our conclusions
- attended further meeting on 15/12/ 2012 to discuss nature and purpose of NALA in current climate; written up summary of meeting
- liaised with NP with regard to the new NC proposals; gave detailed commentary on the NALA response
- liaised with JMc, NP and JCa regarding the forthcoming conference
- liaised with JCa, NP and JP regarding various membership applications
- attended a Language Rich Europe event in Sheffield in February.

### **Treasurer's report (Jenny Carpenter)**

Geoff Mitchell of Bury St Edmunds certified the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 and it was agreed that he should do the same for the 2013 accounts.

### **Communications' Officer's report (Jo Peach)**

Since the last meeting I have

- up-dated the website and sent out alerts as usual
- liaised with NP and PHz with regard to membership criteria.

A new website needs still to be organised but should be decided post-conference, where the future of Nala will be discussed.

### **Item 5 Action Plan**

The Action Plan is to be revised for the Executive Committee meeting in the autumn, where it will be discussed in relation to the outcomes from the members' debate on 'Nala in the new world' to follow.

### **Item 6 Elections to the national executive committee**

There were no new elections to the vacant posts of Chair and Communications Officer and, in the light of this, Nikki Perry and Jo Peach agreed to stand for a further year. The association and committee will look seriously at succession planning in the coming year and make it an item on the autumn agenda.

To this end, members were asked if they would give some thought to becoming a co-opted member of the executive committee to give ideas and /or take on specific jobs that need doing during the year and to let executive know if they were willing to be considered. (Seven people came forward and a decision will be made at the autumn executive meeting.)

## **Item 7 AoB**

The committee is delighted to welcome the following new regional convenors: Rona Heald (Midlands, deputy Lesley Hagger-Vaughan); Anne Farren and Carine Jaquel (South-East); Marie O'Sullivan (North-West).

Extra thanks were given to Jo for the unstinting hard work in running the website, which is so essential to the future of the association.

Jenny reminded members that invoices for next year's subscriptions would be imminent.

The meeting closed at 09.00.