

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Minutes of the EGM at the North Staffs Conference Centre, 17th October 2023 at
7.15pm

Richard Adams welcomed 72 members to the EGM. There were 2 apologies.

Opening remarks: This EGM was called by the committee to consider and to vote on a proposal to permit non-members of the National Trust to join our Association. The background to the proposal is the continuing decline in our membership numbers, from nearly 400 about ten years ago, to around 250 now. Some events are now under-subscribed and having to be cancelled; attendances at our talks are going down while the costs are increasing; the committee is ageing and needs some new younger members.

Membership of this association is currently only open to members of the NT (or volunteers, staff, Scottish NT members etc but we don't have any in these categories). Some members are leaving our Association because they are not renewing their National Trust membership. This is usually because they are less mobile, or have visited the local properties many times, or for financial reasons.

Other people who might like to join us are not currently NT members and are put off by the cost of joining.

NT membership is currently £84 a year for one person or £139.20 for a couple. This reduces by 25% after three years' membership for the over 60s.

If we approve this change to our constitution, anyone joining will be required to state that they support the main object of our association, to support and prosper the work of the NT.

Many of our outings are to NT properties; non NT members would have to pay the entrance fees on top of the cost of the trip.

Discussion: Members were concerned that non-NT members could in future be in a majority, and that a future committee might decide not to donate to the NT as we do now. Other members felt that the ongoing requirement to uphold the current Objects of the Association would prevent this, and that the NT itself could intervene if this were to happen.

Members would no longer be obliged to continue NT membership, so the NT could lose out in this way.

Outings would be more difficult to manage if some participants needed to pay either beforehand or on the day for admission to NT properties.

Voting: 69 votes were cast by members. 59 were in favour of the change and 10 were against. This was an 85% vote in favour from the members present and voting, which exceeded the two-thirds majority requirement for a change to our constitution.

Motion carried.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.