

North Staffordshire National Trust Association

Draft Minutes of the 45th A.G.M at the North Staffs Conference Centre 20th May 2025

1. 76 members attended the A.G.M and there were 9 apologies.
2. Chairman's Report: Ralph announced that he would be standing down as Chairman after more than 12 years. It was disappointing that over this time the membership had fallen from about 400 to 220 members. Ralph suggested various ideas to promote the Association and reverse the decline, including encouraging members to tell their friends and relatives about our interesting and varied activities. He also outlined the current initiatives of the Trust to strengthen the links between themselves and all the supporting Associations. Finally he thanked all the committee members, past and present, for all their hard work, and particularly mentioned John Spriggs for producing the excellent Newsletter, and Marion Lycett for her sterling work in planning and organising events and trips.
3. The Minutes of the 44th A.G.M were accepted as a true record of the Meeting.
4. Secretary's Report: Richard wishes to record his personal thanks to Ralph for his leadership, enthusiasm and guidance over many years. Membership numbers are now 220, down from 240 this time last year. In the last year there were 19 different events, including 7 varied talks, the A.G.M, 1 walk, 6 car outings, 1 coach trip, 2 social events and a 4 day holiday to South Wales. Car sharing arrangements are starting to work well since we are tending to offer fewer coach trips due to increasing costs of coach hire. Thanks are offered to many people for the success of our programme, but especially to Marion for co-ordinating everything, Anthea for arranging the talks, and John for the Newsletter and the Website.
5. Treasurer's Report: Huw presented the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2025 which showed a deficit of just under £6,000, mainly due to Donations to Biddulph Grange, amounting to £7,000. The finances are still fairly strong with Reserves just under £10,000. James Scott of Hardings, Chartered Accountants was thanked for independently examining the Accounts, which were then officially adopted by the Meeting.
6. Subscriptions: The Meeting agreed to keep the level of subscriptions unchanged.
7. Approvals for Re-election: The Meeting agreed to waive the requirement to stand down after 5 years as per our Constitution.
8. Elections of Officers and Committee: Bob Winter was proposed and seconded as Chairman and was duly elected by a show of hands. Helen Mansell and Anthea Bond were proposed and seconded to join the Committee and were duly elected by a show of hands. The following were put forward for re-election and were duly elected:
Secretary : Richard Adams Treasurer : Huw Davies Committee : Phil Alcock, Cynthia Dumbelton, Marion Lycett, Jane Mayer, John Pedrazzini, John Spriggs, Sue Till.
9. A.O.B : On behalf of the Meeting Richard Mayer thanked the committee for their hard work. The new Chairman, Bob Winter, likewise thanked Ralph for his leadership over many years.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm and was followed by the Talk.