

**The Cheshire Area of NAFAS**  
**Minutes of Area Council Meeting held at Plumley Village Hall**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019**

**Officers Present:** Chairman – Nicky Wylie, 1st Vice Chairman –Chris Gibbons, 2nd Vice Chairman – Louise Jones, Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy, Secretary – Morag McCord, Minutes Secretary – Shiona Fosh.

**Chairman's Remarks:**

- Announced that Mavis Turnbull and Keith Smithies had died.
- Val Seed has been poorly.
- Thanked the clubs for feeding back on non-attendance at the AGM 2019.

Replies: Holidays, Distance, Seen demonstrator a couple of weeks before, would like a shorter break for lunch or to be fed!

**1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Val Seed: President, Catherine Bower: Area Flower Arranger officer, Maureen Herson: F&GP and Widnes Flower Club.

**2.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Many delegates had not received their minutes. Morag needed to be informed who had not got them and she would resend them.

**3.MATTERS ARISING:**

None

**4.CORRESPONDENCE:**

See below.

**5.REPORTS:**

**a) Secretary – Morag McCord**

**Reminders**

- With several new delegates present, please all sign in beside your club name and collect the club packs.
- Delegates advise club committee as soon as possible after Council of any business requiring action. Take notes of the meeting as minutes will be issued later.
- Only one vote per club.
- Let me know of any changes to your club officers forms as soon as possible and if your delegates are unable to attend Council, contact me beforehand if you are sending another member.

**Correspondence**

- Letter from Eddisbury FC with change of name. Now Eddisbury and Sandiway FC and welcome to their new delegates today.
- Unfortunately, also received email from Wilmslow & District Afternoon FC advising they will close at end of 2020.
- Received several enquiries re club demonstrations, flower arranging classes, etc. and have directed potential new members to clubs.
- Sent out info from HQ re obituaries and special events and email from Pat Murphy re National Demonstrator's Committee recommendation to increase flower allowance.

**In Packs**

Agenda

Diary Dates 2020: Make note of Council meetings as one in an evening.

- **Council Monday 3 February Plumley - 10am for 10.30am**
- **Council Thursday 30 April Plumley - 7pm for 7.30pm (Evening)**
- **Council Monday 29 June Plumley - 10am for 10.30am**
- **Council Monday 2 November Plumley - 10am for 10.30am**
- **AGM Thursday 1 October Frodsham – times to be arranged**

- New club officers form issued today – green -so please use this form and send it back to me as soon after your AGM. Complete both sides please.
- Area Celebration Lunch Flyer and separate ticket application form and menu.
- Letter from Joan Wilkinson for tutors and students re invitation to take part in Royal Cheshire County Show 2020.
- Flyers for 3 clubs.

Many thanks to Collette Dunkley for her help with club packs and registration today and to Shiona Fosh, our minute secretary who does a wonderful job.

#### **b) Treasurer – Tracy-Anne Clancy**

**The balances** on the accounts as at 11.11.2019 are as follows:

Barclays Bank - Current Account (F&GP) £26,736.24 (£18,983.14 net of National Affiliation Fees)

Barclays Bank – Current Account (JDS&E) £8,769.68

Barclays Bank – Savings Account £10,240.72

Nationwide Building Society - £16,608.27 (In the process of being closed and balance transferred to Barclays Savings Account)

Leek United Building Society - £10,000 (2 yr Bond) (Matures July 2020)

#### **Affiliation Fees**

Thank you to all clubs who have already submitted their Affiliation Fees (20 Clubs so far 50%). The deadline for all submissions is 30th November 2019.

#### **Insurance**

I am currently reviewing our insurance package. (We have also been asked to supply some information to HQ following an incident at an Area Flower Show (not Cheshire). I would like to understand if all clubs renew their insurance with effect from 1st January each year, which company they use and how much is paid. Would all clubs please advise me at their earliest convenience?

Christmas Order

Please ensure that you have collected your club's Christmas order.

#### **c) Publicity – Sally Melvin**

Golden Anniversary of Cheshire Area 2020 to be advertised on a large poster.

i) Flower Arranger

- Form for 2020 orders issued in 24th June Council club packs, with closing date Thursday 14th November 2019.
- Thank you to the 25 clubs who have sent their order. Can others let me have numbers ASAP, so I can complete changes over the weekend.
- Reminder – Spring edition due for delivery Thursday 16th January. Non-delivery should be notified to me after 5 days, shortfall as soon as parcel delivered.
- Slip outlining delivery dates and when changes to club orders should be notified to me was included in June Area Council club packs.

#### **d) NAFAS – Nicky Wylie**

No feedback from NAFAS

- Complained to Council about the waste of time coming to a meeting, which had nothing to report about. Needs a change in constitution to sort this problem out.
- That clubs should be informed of deaths so that they know what the family's wishes are. NAFAS Council will review this.
- National Flower Arranging Day: Let Nicky know if your club is taking part so that Orange corporate cards can be given out.

Had a 2 minutes Silence for Remembrance Day at 11AM

#### **e) Finance and General Purposes –Nicky Wylie**

Website is making progress

- Will cost £3,300, monthly payment of £50.00 to maintain the site.
- Trialling the website for a year to see how much it will be used.

- Main cost is transferring information from old to new website. Nicky asked meeting if they were in agreement to spend the money. No one objected.
- It will be a comprehensive web site including Classes, club and members access, updating information to users, Minutes, E mail address update all covered by data protection, photos and downloading forms etc.

#### **i) Chaffinches – Sharon Nolan**

There are currently 6 affiliated members, a reduction of 2. They have helped steward at the Royal Cheshire Show and attend area workshops wherever possible, including the recent Education Day.

Can I ask all clubs to keep an eye open for any visitor who may wish to become an affiliated member, in order to get the benefits of NAFAS membership but without the commitment of attending a club/demonstration each month?

#### **f) Judges, Demonstrators, Speakers & Education – Chris Gibbons**

- Diane has approached Lucy Richardson to add another day to her booking so that there can be an Education day on the Saturday, 14th March 2020 and a Demonstrators Refresher Day on Sunday 15th March. Lucy's workshops will include Botanical paper works and Himmeli techniques. Diane will bring the paper for students to buy.
- Gill McGregor's workshop was a success and she gave plenty of tips and techniques to assist Tutors and Demonstrators alike, particularly with doing exhibits with no oasis.
- Sue Clissold passed her National Judge's Test.
- RHS Chelsea are changing their application form, submit by the end of Nov. 2019.
- There is no report on the finances from the workshop due to the Treasurer being on holiday.
- Diane Fair advertised a 3-day course for people who would like to take their flowers further. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020.

#### **g) Social – Louise Jones**

##### **AGM**

- Following the business side of the day we had an entertaining demonstration by Tom Hodge entitled 'Globetrotting'. Tom's flowers and designs were beautiful and very varied.

##### **Lunch at Cranage 2019**

- Good meal and there was a demonstration by Eleanor Griffiths and Pat Murphy.

##### **Golden Anniversary 2020**

- Celebration meal at Cranage. Entertainment by the fabulous Chelsea team. Tickets £35 per person for 200 people. **Applications for tickets must arrive between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.** The tickets will be drawn randomly until the seats run out. Special dietary requirements must be made known before the day. **16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**
- The Area Social day. We will be celebrating all our talents - not just flower arranging but I will be asking you to bring examples of other crafts that you yourself have made to show. In the afternoon we will be having a demonstration. **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**
- AGM. Titled - Floral Fashion Feast . Following the AGM we will have a buffet lunch. This will be followed by a fashion show. The clothes will be hand made with flowers by the clubs. Chris Gibbons and Louise Jones will be doing workshops around the area to help with designs. An allowance of £50 per club for those who take part. **1<sup>st</sup> October 2020**
- An admin note.....Can you please stress to members of your clubs that they do not have to apply for tickets for any events through their club. Individual and group

applications will be accepted; we do ask that you put your club name on the back of the cheque to help us with this seating plan.

- A budget of approx. £4,000 has been agreed for these three Golden Anniversary events.

#### **h) RHS – Pam Mosedale**

No report

- Tatton RHS has agreed to donate money for flowers next year for the Flower School Tatton.

#### **i) Royal Cheshire County Show Team – Joan Wilkinson**

- Schedule has been taken to the printers for next year's Cheshire show.
- A letter has been put into the packs for the clubs about competing in the Royal Cheshire County Show.

#### **j) NAFAS Sub Committees:**

##### **(i) Judges – Sue Clissold**

###### **Area Day 11 September and National Judges Committee 12 September 2019**

- 19 representatives out of the 21 areas attended.
- A Social Media site been set up for Judges to be able to post and comment organised by National judge Debbie Wadge. This is to exchange ideas and comments we would find useful/helpful when judging.
- Request was made for an official guideline to be made available on judging Still Life entries and this is being considered.
- Refresher days in all disciplines Demonstrators/Speakers/ judges and Teachers were considered vital and to hold these regularly should be encouraged and co-ordinated with neighbouring areas. We have done this with Mercia and North Wales and four people from the Cheshire area have started training to become Area Judges.
- In answer to a questionnaire that was sent out to all areas Cheshire raised the most questions and several were addressed at National level that all judges should regularly compete. Judges should be made aware of the layout at show venues so all areas of exhibits can be accessed easily.
- If designated Judges Rep cannot attend meetings, replacement should also be a judge.
- A leaflet on Show Work for Beginners is being brought up to date and will hopefully be available to download on the NAFAS web site.
- It is possible to facilitate a candidate taking any Judges Test who is Dyslexic. Please refer to your Area Rep.
- National judges' conference is in Northern Ireland Judges have received information.
- Note the Period Guide has wrong date for Victorian - should be 1837 and not 1830.
- If there are any subjects that it is felt should have a booklet then please let me know and I will forward idea.

##### **(ii) Demonstrators – Diane Fair**

Notes taken from the minutes of the National Demonstrators Committee meeting on 17th September 2019.

Present Elizabeth Graham- Chairman, Jacqui Arnold, Pam Lewis and James Burnside- apologies from Nigel Whyles

- Notification received of the deaths of Pearl Frost and Keith Smithies
- The training days for Pre-National and National candidates at Pam Lewis's house was planned.
- Tickets for the tests are available from myself- £12 each day
- There will be Area demonstrators tests in SAFAS and NIGFAS IN 2020
- The National Demonstrators Symposium will take place 22nd-25th April 2021
- The recommended flower allowance has not been discussed for some time, although the committee was aware of clubs that are struggling financially, it is important for

audience satisfaction, that the demonstrator is given sufficient allowance, in this time of rising prices. Committee agreed to raise the recommendation from £110 to £120. Date of the next meeting is 27th-29th January 2020

**(iii) Speakers**

No report

**(iv) Education – Diane Fair**

- The National Education Committee has met 3 times during the year with Julie Ward as Chairman, Susie Barwick- Vice Chairman, Moyra Turnbull-Insight Editor, Sharon Dower- Course Consultant, and Gill McGregor
- A National Education Conference was organised at Nottingham University from 22nd -24th March 2019 the tutors for the designs without floral foam workshops were Katherine Kear and Angela Turner.
- Despite Moyra’s enthusiasm for the Insight magazine sales have declined so it has been decided to no longer produce a paper printed copy the last paper copy will be Spring 2020. It has not been decided yet how Insight will be delivered in future.
- The NAFAS courses are continuing to be delivered in some Areas of the country. Irene Manson will commence the NAFAS Teacher Training course in October. This OCN/NAFAS course has been successfully run in East of England and Wessex and Jersey Areas.
- Various NAFAS books are being updated and amended.
- The committee ran hands on workshops at the National Show in Islington and also mini ‘How To’s’ in leaf manipulation and floral jewellery.
- The National committee are looking into the possibility of running a Level 4 NAFAS Diploma course at Osborne House but this prove too costly for students. It might be more viable to start a beginner's course at HQ instead.

**(v) Photography- Pam Mosedale**

- No more area meetings.
- New YouTube videos have been posted on line and there have been 3,000 hits.

**(vi) Junior Liaison - Judy Gratton**

No report

**6.A.O.B:**

1. The central structure from Chelsea has been repainted dark blue and is assembled in Sharon Nolan’s garden. She will organise an open garden to raise money for her own club, and will consider doing so for Area if there is a suitable project to support.
2. Sharon asked for more contact numbers on the blue demonstrators form in case of late non-attendance by demonstrator.
3. Sharon thanked Pam for making the calendars and hoped everyone would buy one.
4. Club suggested ‘Open Gardens’ for raising money. They raised £1500 this year.
5. Old flower Arrangers magazines were passed onto Stockport Club from Morag.
6. Collette Dunkley asked for Postal code and cost for visitors on the flyers.

**Thanks to Louise for providing the flowers.**

Meeting finished at 12:15 am

**7. Date of Next Council Meeting:**

**Monday 3rd Feb 2020**

**10am Coffee/tea Meeting 10:30am**

**Plumley Village Hall, WA16 OAU**

Signed.....

Dated.....