



DRAFT Minutes of Open Meeting held electronically via Zoom.

Held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting opened 7.30pm Chair - Paul Howells

1 Present

Paul Howells	Isobel Tustin	Suzy Firkin	Philip Hamilton
Toni Davenport	Charles O'Neill	Mark Underwood	Jenny Shardlow
Michael Blake	Edd James	David Dean	Les Borritt
Jane Pedley			

2 Apologies

Bex Scott-Clegg	David Stephenson	John Plavenieks	Chris Woods
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The chair conveyed thanks from Chris Woods to everyone who helps to keep the Centre running.

3 Officer Reports (verbal updates only)

3.1 Warden

a) Everyone worked tirelessly on the recent work weekend and much was achieved: the Belfast sink is now in place as an outside boot wash; the new water system is working well; the showers are fantastic, but users must close the door tightly to avoid leaks; the classroom is in good shape, not leaking and functioning well.

3.2 Treasurer

a) Accounts were emailed to directors in advance of the meeting, but it was felt there some omissions.

b) Isobel reported that there is now £20,694.14 in the investment account, and £4,569.30 in current account. All incoming bookings payments are up to date.

c) Paul reported that Bex will be stepping down as NMC Treasurer at the next AGM. Philip Hamilton has offered to take on the role. Isobel is monitoring income and outgoing payments, and is chasing late payments if necessary.

3.3 Membership

a) There are currently 41 Individual members, 1 Supporter, and 33 Affiliated organisations.

b) Isobel summarised bookings:

20 Affiliated groups have already booked this year, and 7 for next year. This gave a total of 65 nights when the Centre was in use this year, and 37 nights are booked for 2026.



The Centre was occupied for 18 nights during the Family Meet this year. 16 nights are provisionally booked for Members Meets next year, and 19 for the Family Meet.

Four more bookings are due in this year for Affiliated groups over 7 nights, plus one more Member Meet.

c) An application by Paul Howells for Affiliated Family Group membership was approved at the meeting. Paul explained that due to his retirement he will no longer be leading the Dragon Walking Group.

d) Isobel reported that £15.07 has recently been banked by 'Give as you Live', and our crowdfunding appeal 'Just Giving' has now raised £25.32.

e) At the meeting Isobel shared a chart recording bookings and resulting income. In addition Isobel is emailing leaders before their bookings regarding any recent changes at the Centre, and sending a reminder to pay after their visit, with good results. Toni thanked Isobel for all the extra work she has been doing, echoed by Paul.

3.4 Bookings

Bookings were dealt with under membership report.

3.5 Community Liaison

a) The summer months have seen an increase in traffic on the lane, partly due to extra traffic generated by the Satnav 'shortcut'. The local councillor is still trying to have the lane designated 'Access only'. A section of the lane was resurfaced entailing closure for a week during September, work to improve drainage is still going on.

b) Jane has contacted Guy the webmaster regarding a Welsh language option on the website. Guy will charge for enabling this, but to avoid the high cost of a professional translation enquiries have been made with a locally based Welsh speaking group. Toni suggested using a Google App for initial translation. Jane will pursue options.

ACTION POINT - Jane to continue investigating website translation options.

4 Lease

4.1 Despite sending reminder emails and messages Paul has had no response from the NT, so the Lease is still in the hands of the solicitors.

4.2 There was some concern over the rent increase which is building up, but following discussion it was agreed to leave things as they are until the lease has been signed, and to then pay up the backlog of rent increase when required. Paul will again remind the NT.

ACTION POINT – Paul to contact the NT

5 Update from Publicity & Promotion Action group and Fundraising

5.1 Isobel has set up a 'Just Giving' page and will add a Campaign page in due course.



- 5.2 The only feedback following the Autumn Bulletin survey on merchandise was from Nigel Roberts, who preferred the idea of beanies in favour of T shirts which would be expensive and present problems over sizing and storage. Outdoor based items eg travel mugs were also suggested. Paul offered to cost beanies.

ACTION POINT – Paul to enquire cost of NMC beanies and other merchandise.

- 5.3 Should T shirts still be required, as an alternative to the expense of storing and distributing stock Suzy suggested online companies which, for an admin fee, allow individuals to order via a link, with items posted direct to the buyer.
- 5.4 Paul and Philip have been investigating the potential for grant funding. Jane added that this was partly the reason for a bilingual website, to encourage community involvement which may be required for grant funding.

ACTION POINT – Paul and Philip to investigate funding possibilities

- 5.5 Paul added that steps are being taken to increase funds as a necessity due to recent spending. Jenny asked that such funds are ring fenced in future for the purpose they were raised for, echoed by Philip.
- 5.6 Badge stocks are getting low but there should be enough to last until next year.

6 Review of Articles

- 6.1 Following suggestions that some details in the Articles may need updating, Paul and Philip have prepared a draft to share initially with directors. Toni suggested referring to Companies House model articles for information.

ACTION POINT – Paul and Philip to continue working on the Articles.

- 6.2 Suzy commented that she had received emails from Companies House asking for updated details. Michael added that Companies House are currently updating website security, so as of 18th November directors will need to update info when requested.
- 6.3 Currently only Bex has login access to Companies House, so it was agreed that part of her handover as Treasurer will include these details.

7 T Shirts – decision on ordering based on membership survey

- 7.1 This was dealt with under item 5.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 The only item of correspondence received was Nigel Roberts' reply to the T shirt and merchandise survey, which was dealt with under item 5.



9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Paul raised the subject of online meetings which currently rely on Suzy's Zoom account. As difficulties have been encountered with 'Teams', he asked for suggestions of other free options. Toni replied that NMC as a charity has ten free 'Office 365' licences, which gives a 10 year licence which is renewed free. Paul asked Toni to email the details.

ACTION POINT – Paul to liaise with Toni over 'Office 365' licence

- 9.2 Isobel reported that CCTV footage shows the car park being used by members of the public whilst the Centre was empty, also when the Centre was occupied during the August Meet. It was agreed a notice is needed on the main gate by the lane, detailing right of vehicle access. Paul will initially contact NT Sharon, also liaise with the new farm tenants regarding potential risks to stock grazing the field. It was also agreed the ladder stile needs removing.

ACTION POINT – Paul to contact NT over a vehicle access notice on the main gate.

- 9.3 EV charging –

a) Paul summarised results of recent enquiries: £1,300 to install; would need to be close to consumer unit; could set up a tariff to potentially raise money to pay for instalment; could take card payments using Wifi link; a need to liaise with NT. Currently some groups charge vehicles using an extension cable, then add payment for electricity used.

b) Toni felt it a good idea provided there was no financial loss. Members of the public may wish to use it, so it could conflict with Centre users, but it may encourage bookings. Philip thought EV charging is not a core function of NMC, cost outlay may take money from other things needed more. Michael suggested it may give rise to maintenance problems or clog up the car park if used by the public. Edd thought we're nearing capacity already so adding a charger would take it up. Les commented that with technology fast improving, there may not be the same need to charge in the near future. Suzy added that grants may be available. There was no firm conclusion but on balance it was felt that EV charging will not currently be pursued.

- 9.4 Isobel raised the issue of electricity rates. Currently only one meter is in use as the old night storage meter was disconnected by the electrician, who advised having it removed and arranging a new tariff. Payments were discussed, with agreement on the need for Bex to ring Scottish Power to discuss charges and a new tariff. In addition, Toni noted the suitability of installing a water wheel and advised on a local contractor who designs such systems.

10 Date of next meeting

The next directors meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th November at 7.30pm, when the AGM date will be decided.

Paul thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.