

# MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> NPC BIENNIAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE

26/27 MARCH 2024, YARNFIELD PARK, STAFFORD

CHAIR: ROSIE MACGREGOR, NPC PRESIDENT

Attendance: 101 delegates, officers, staff, and observers  
Inc: L C Huston & J. Martin CWU (UK).

## 1. **The President formally opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to the 12th Biennial Delegate Conference.**

The President reminded Conference that the NPC is the major campaigning organisation for pensioners in the UK, with a proud history of raising awareness about matters of shared concern and supporting today's pensioner as well as the pensioners of the future.

She was very positive that the changes we have made to our Constitution together with the Working Together Policy will make us more effective and ensure that we pull together, recruit new activists and with the support and understanding of our affiliates, become even more successful in our campaigns

The President then went on to pay respect to all those we have lost in the last two years. She especially mentioned Frank Cooper who passed away only recently after celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29 January this year. Frank was an inspiration to all those who knew him as well as to those within the wider trade union and pensioner movements. We pay tribute to his hard work and the massive commitment he gave to our organisation during his several terms of office as President. We also pay tribute to Tony Hall who was a long serving member of our Standing Orders Committee and Structure Working Party who passed away in August in his early 90's.

1 minute's silence in recognition, respect, and gratitude for all our members who are no longer with us.

She outlined her reasons for not standing for another term as President. Her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer with a prognosis at the time that there would be several years to be planned to spend together. Sadly, this was not to be as he died suddenly at the end of January. She had also suffered a head injury on the train returning from Blackpool and felt the need to re-evaluate her commitments.

In particular, she highlighted her disappointment that very few women have taken the opportunity to stand in elections and none for the role of President.

## 2. **Presentation of the Standing Orders Committee Report (SOC)** by the Chair, Joel Kosminsky. The Chair outlined the conference agenda, speaking times and reference back of motions ruled off the agenda. He explained the reasons for the SOC decisions on those motions ruled out of order.

Amendments: where amendments to motions appear, the mover of the relevant motion should make it clear whether or not the amendment is accepted with the final choice being with conference delegates.

As the box containing the red and green voting cards had not arrived at the venue, delegates were asked to use the black card for a 'yes' vote (supporting motion) and either white paper or their Conference booklet for a 'no' vote (not supporting motion). Abstentions are taken and recorded for the purpose of clarity for delegates and their nominating bodies.

The SOC Chair asked for co-operation in getting through the agenda. Any motions not heard will be put before the NPC National Executive Council (NEC) at their next meeting in May 2024.

Because of several references back of motions ruled off the agenda, the President called for the election of two tellers to enable the number of votes to be counted unless she saw an overwhelming number of votes for or against a particular motion.

**Election of Tellers:** Monica Taylor and Vic Jeffries were elected

**a) Reference back on Constitutional Amendment – West Midlands Region**

Delegate argued that NPC does not have a ruling on a period of time elapsing before a defeated motion/amendment can be brought back to Conference. The region had not been given an opportunity to meet the SOC. The SOC Chair responded that the NPC cannot have a rule for every eventuality and where there is no rule, the SOC refer to Citrine – an internationally accepted and respected set of rules covering meetings/conferences. Additionally, the SOC thought that the amendment did not show consideration to those with protected characteristics and the difficulties they may face.

**Reference back: This amendment needs a two-thirds majority vote.**

**For reference back: 40.**

**Against reference back: 46**

**REFERENCE BACK IS LOST AS IT DID NOT REACH THE CRITERIA OF TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE. THIS AMENDMENT WAS NOT ADMITTED ONTO THE AGENDA.**

**b) Reference back on Motion 7 – Climate Change – Unite:**

A delegate from Unite gave Conference reasons why the motion should be allowed back on the agenda for discussion and debate. The SOC Chair then gave reasons why it had been ruled out of order (these had been printed in the Conference booklet) and asked Conference to reject the reference back.

**Reference back:**

**For reference back: 34.**

**Against reference back: 43 – REFERENCE BACK IS LOST AND THIS MOTION WAS NOT ADMITTED ONTO THE AGENDA.**

**c) Reference back on Amendment 3 to motion 2 – Yorkshire/Humberside:**

This amendment was submitted to ensure that the NPC policy of a National Care Service funded by general taxation, working with, but not subsumed into the NHS was not undermined. Services can be integrated but budgets should remain separate. Experience shows that social care is funded less than the NHS,

UCU accepted the amendment. Conference voted unanimously for reference back and this was admitted back onto the agenda.

**d) Reference back on motion 8 – Older & Vulnerable Persons’ Resilience Officer – Northwest Region:**

Northwest region informed conference they would not seek reference back on their motion and this was agreed.

The President moved to the vote on acceptance of the Standing Orders Report.

Conference voted unanimously in favour (less one delegate choosing not to vote) of acceptance. The President thanked the SOC members for their hard work in getting this conference off the ground.

**3. Introduction of Candidates for Officer and SOC positions.**

The President invited all those standing in the forthcoming elections for officer positions and the Standing Orders Committee to make themselves known to delegates.

In terms of Standing Orders Committee there would be no election as nominations had filled the 6 places available.

**4. Minutes of the previous Biennial Delegate Conference 15-16 March 2022.**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

**5. Matters Arising:**

- West Midlands Region said that the motion just called for the NPC to sign up to, and support, the campaigning organisations mentioned. The General Secretary noted this.
- RMT thanked delegates for their overwhelming support on picket lines and marches in respect to the ticket office closures, staff on stations and trains. But he warned that as time has passed since the government decision, we needed to be vigilant and ready to campaign again as train operators tried to find ways to save costs. These would manifest in different ways in different regions and localities. We need to continue the ‘people power’ campaigning success by working together and communicating local issues to bring to the fore.

**6. Presentation of the Biennial Conference Report by NPC General Secretary Jan Shortt.**

The General Secretary spoke to her written report to BDC, as contained in the conference booklet, which outlined the work of the NPC over the last two years.

She gave an update on the latest actions being taken on various campaigns and other issues encompassing the work of the NPC:

- Commissioner for Older People & Ageing in England: We'll be at 10 Downing Street on 29 April with our partners Independent Age, Age UK and Ageing Better to deliver our petition calling for a Commissioner for England. The petition is on the last page of our Campaign News – sign up and hand to staff.
- Voter ID, we continue to argue for its repeal. From 9 complaints of fraud in the May election last year, only 1 case was prosecuted. The TUC is working with the Commission asking for student bus passes and rail cards as well as other bus and rail passes for those over 18 without the ID required to allow them to vote to be added to the list of acceptable ID.
- Fuel poverty, we are part of a press release today through the Fuel Poverty coalition of groups in respect to energy companies applying a levy on all electric bills from 1 April. This will be in accordance with the tariff you are on. At our meeting with the Regulator a few weeks ago, we argued very strongly for them to be dropped. This levy is not to help people struggling with debt, it is to pay for recovery agents.
- Two things that have impacted on the NPC that are out of our control. COVID 19 and inflation.
- Not wanting to steal the Treasurers speech, but I cannot emphasise enough that this is crunch time for the NPC. We have been giving this message for the last 3 years now and it seems apart from a small handful of organisations that everyone else thinks it is somebody else's job. It isn't – it is for everyone to work on bringing in support to NPC. We are not the only organisation in this position, but we can make a difference if everyone pulls together.
- Thanks to CSPA for continuing to support us with printing our State Pension updated booklet; to London Region; BTPF and ASLEF for their generous donations. CWU for their support against Palantir and the Federated Data Platform which risks security of your health data. RMT for working with us to get policies into the cross-party arena. All of you now must to go back to your national body; get a donation; work with us on your motions passed at this Conference; choose a campaign. There are so many ways in which you can support us that frees up resources for other things.
- The Officers, Finance Working Party and Structure Working Party held an Away Day in February covering various aspects of what is needed to get NPC back on track. We have increased our affiliation fee for the first time since 2016; we are working on producing new information, recruitment material and looking at grant funding as well as opportunities to look at social media, podcasts and other access to get our message across.
- There is a rumour that there will be no Annual Convention this year. Not true, but it will be in September. No dates as yet as we need to contact Meet Blackpool for reasonably priced space.
- There is good news – Devon and Cornwall – there is an interest to revitalise - thanks to Keith and Glen from GAS for their input. Home Counties North are back on track. It shows that when we come together, we can create positive outcomes.
- To staff, officers and all those members who commit themselves in a positive way to the NPC, thank you so much.

## **7. Presentation of Financial Accounts for 2023, Steve Whitehead, NPC**

### **Treasurer:**

2023 was, financially speaking a mixed year. We started the year after a large deficit in 2022 and we had budgeted for an increased deficit in 2023. At the end of 2023 we had made savings and received additional income that reduced the planned deficit by about £15,000.

The balance sheet at the end of December shows that assets (what we own) has fallen by £11,000 and liabilities (what we owe) has risen by £8,000. Despite savings made we still lost £19,500 in 2023 and our cash reserves fell by over a third.

Our income from affiliations and membership fees was very close to budget but it now contributes just under two fifths of our income, the annual grant from Age UK remained at £30,000, a fifth of our income.

Donations income was very satisfactory and contributed a fifth of our income. Income from donations is very variable and whilst they are welcome, donations are not a predictable source of income.

Other income included fees from delegates at the Special Delegate Conference and from participants at an extremely successful Annual Convention. The Convention is our premiere event, very informative and well attended but the nett cost was close to £5,000 a quarter of our total loss in 2023.

Our fundraising income and its costs were very disappointing. We are new to fundraising and there is an extremely 'competitive market' for funds. Every charity and voluntary organisation are 'out there' looking for funds, as government cuts affect everyone. It is taking us time to learn just what is and what is not possible in fundraising work.

We need to see rapid and sustained changes if we are to break even, all NPC plans and activities will need to reflect our limited budgets.

We cannot afford losses on events such as the Annual Convention and our planning has to balance providing a high-quality event that meets the needs of participants, against a tight budget target.

We have increased NPC National affiliation fees by 15%, whilst having held member and local organisation fees at the present level.

We are trying to increase our donations and other income through promoting Easyfundraising. At this BDC we are holding the first prize draw of our new NPC 250 Club and further information is available at the NPC desk.

We have now moved to new offices and by the end of the year rent and associated office costs will reduce by close to half.

Our work on raising additional funds from grants will be stepped up.

We are doing what we can to ensure our future, but you as members and delegates must play your part in supporting this work through your affiliated organisation, locally and regionally via Easyfundraising and the NPC 250 Club.

In closing, I ask the BDC to adopt the annual accounts for 2023 and re-appoint Andy Warnock Smith and Bob Bayley as NPC Auditors.

The President thanked the Treasurer and ask if there were any questions:

- Les McDowell, Chair of Finance Working Party (FWP) answered a question in regard to the funding costs of £9,000. The Finance Report includes an entry

under Vantage costs that the Treasurer has shown as a provision. He has, quite rightly, shown the possible full year effect of the charges that might be raised in connection with our externally provided fund-raising efforts. However, the sum shown is only a provision in order not to overlook a liability. At present the amount of this liability is not quantified in totality as negotiations are in hand with the supplier. When the final sum is agreed the Officers will be advised.

- Chris Mason-Ryan explained how the 250 Club works and urged members to signed up before they leave and also to encourage members of their nominating bodies to do so too.

The Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously along with the re-appointment of Andy Warnock Smith and Bob Bayley as the NPC Auditors.

## **8. Presentation of NPC Structure Working Party report and Working Together Policy:**

The President presented the report which demonstrated how the policy work had arisen and the democratic processes it has taken before coming to this Conference for adoption.

The policy is clear in its intention and actions and we hope you have all taken the time to read and understand it.

We have set aside time in the agenda for questions and discussion, so I will now ask delegates to take the opportunity given.

There were no questions and delegates voted unanimously to adopt the policy.

The General Secretary informed delegates that we would now add this as an appendix to our Constitution and add the Preamble as agreed at the January meeting of our NEC.

## **9. Presidential Ballot:**

The ballot forms should be taken to the box with Jonathan through the break. There will be a last call for ballot forms immediately after resuming Conference.

## **10. Point of Order on resuming Conference:** Unite made the point that reference back on their Emergency Motion on a vote of no confidence in the Chair of SOC had not been taken. It was also pointed out that SOC had proposed that the Emergency Motion needs a two-thirds majority vote; the motion did not need a seconder and there would be no right of reply and that this was wrong.

The President took the point of order and asked Conference to vote on the following:

- i. That there should not be a two-thirds majority vote:

**For not having a two-thirds majority vote** 46

**For having a two-thirds majority vote** 29

**THERE WILL NOT BE A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE**

- ii. That there should be a seconder to the Emergency Motion:

**For having a seconder** 52

**Against having a seconder** 19

**Abstentions** 7

**THERE WILL BE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A SECONDER TO THE EMERGENCY MOTION**

- iii. That there should be a right of reply by the mover of the Emergency Motion:

**For the right of reply** 48

**Against the right of reply** 22

**Abstentions** 5

**THE MOVER OF THE EMERGENCY MOTION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT OF REPLY**

The President then took the Emergency Motion and asked for a seconder. She asked for a third time for a seconder otherwise the motion will fall. A delegate formally seconded the motion from the floor.

The mover of the motion spoke first in criticism of the Chair of SOC and then focussed his argument against all of SOC and all NPC elected posts, claiming all the occupants of those posts were not working in pensioners' interests rather than the content of the motion. After a heated debate, the President called for a vote:

**For the Emergency Motion** 8

**Against the Emergency Motion** 61

**Abstentions** 10

**THE EMERGENCY MOTION IS LOST**

## **11. NPC 250 Club Draw:**

Those members signed up were entered into the draw. The number of tickets purchased were entered into the draw, i.e. if a member purchased two tickets, two

were in the draw; if they purchased three tickets, three were in the draw and so on. Prizes were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> prize £143 – Bill Dale

2<sup>nd</sup> prize £71 – Chris Mason-Ryan

3<sup>rd</sup> prize £28.40 – Steve Whitehead

## **12. BALLOT FOR VICE PRESIDENTS:**

The President called for ballot forms to be put in the box with Jonathan.

\*\* Two further tellers elected whilst the ballot is counted – Marion Wilson and Chris Mason-Ryan\*\*

## **POLICY MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

### **MOTION 1: NPC YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE - BETTER BUSES CAMPAIGN**

Conference reaffirms the policy agreed at the last BDC on the need to campaign over the crisis in our bus services, in particular the resolution to “actively support local, regional and national campaigns for the public ownership and control of bus services.”

We note:

- the crisis outlined two years ago has worsened: almost 2000 bus routes were lost across England in the last year alone, with remaining services often unreliable and infrequent.
- older people, especially those living in rural areas, are severely affected by absent or poor services.
- the crisis also impacts on many other groups, including people with disabilities, young workers, and students and those who cannot afford to run a car.
- better public transport would help fight the worsening climate emergency by offering an attractive and viable alternative to private cars.

Conference welcomes the move to create a national network of Better Buses campaigns following the national conference organised in June 2023 by the YHPC and supported by the NPC.

We note that many NPC regions and the national organisation took part in the Week of Action for Better Buses agreed by the conference, calling for fair funding for bus services and supporting campaigns for public control (franchising).

We call on the NPC to:

- Continue to support the national Better Buses campaign by linking with the national network via its website (<https://betterbusescampaign.uk>) and encouraging all regions to do the same.
- Encourage all NPC regions to initiate or take part in local Better Buses campaigns involving trade unions and all groups affected by poor services, using the Better Buses network and local alternatives to publicise activities.
- Use “Campaign!” to report regional and national activities and events calling for better bus services.

### **AMENDMENT 1 – TSSA (accepted by Yorkshire & Humberside)**

To amend the bracketed word “(franchising)” at the end of paragraph starting “We note that many NPC regions,” to read “(franchising and/or municipal ownership)”

### **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **MOTION 2: UCU - NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

The lack of funding for the NHS and the low priority given it by the Government has resulted in long waiting lists (presently at 7.6 million) which impacts on the older people for whom increasingly delay equals discomfort, disability and/or death. In 2022, more than 120,000 people in England died while on NHS waiting lists, 67.2% of deaths overall, many of whom are older people.

This NPC Biennial Conference:

1. Supports the doctors and consultants in their campaign, including strikes, for increased pay
2. Demands that the Government:
  - i. trains and recruits’ new healthcare staff, from cleaners to surgeons.
  - ii. funds their promise for new hospitals in a timely manner and ensures that the fabric of all hospitals is checked within one year.
  - iii. Restores the bursary for trainee nurses.
3. Demands that:
  - i. A plan is developed and implemented by this and subsequent governments to integrate social care for the elderly with the NHS
  - ii. That funding for end-of-life care within the NHS is dramatically improved and that the work of hospices is valued and supported by Governments.

### **AMENDMENT 1 – NPC LONDON**

2. Demands that the Government
  - i. trains and recruits’ new healthcare staff, from cleaners to surgeons.
  - ii. funds their promise for new hospitals in a timely manner and ensures that the fabric of all hospitals is checked within one year.
  - iii. Restores the bursary for trainee nurses.

Amend 2iii by adding after trainee nurses – ‘once qualified they must be contracted not to leave the NHS for five years, this will guarantee the level of nursing staff for hospitals.

**FOR: 8 VOTES; AGAINST: 41 VOTES; ABSTENTIONS: 1 THIS AMENDMENT IS LOST**

### **AMENDMENT 2 - RCN**

RCN NPC elected members propose the following amendments to the NHS motion.

1. Expand the focus on supporting doctors and consultants to include **all healthcare staff**
2. Replace ‘trainee nurses’ with nursing students.

**FOR: 88 VOTES; AGAINST: 0 VOTES; ABSTENTIONS 3 THIS AMENDMENT IS CARRIED**

### **AMENDMENT 3 - NPC YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE**

Delete the whole of 3 (i)

Part 3 of the motion then reads:

3. Demands that funding for the end-of-life care within the NHS is dramatically improved and that the work of hospices is valued and supported by Governments.

**FOR: 76 VOTES; AGAINST: 2 VOTES; ABSTENTIONS: 6 THIS AMENDMENT IS CARRIED**

**VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED: FOR 86; AGAINST 0; ABSTENTIONS 0; THIS MOTION IS CARRIED.**

**MOTION 3: UNISON - REGENERATION OF RAIL AND BUS SERVICES**

This conference notes that pensioners and disabled people are badly served by transport services and matters have worsened since privatisation. 30 years of rail privatisation has failed with fares rising above all measures of inflation, trains and infrastructure too slowly renewed, and too little progress on making railways accessible.

Rail transport is in disarray with cancellations; overcrowded trains; inadequate staffing at stations, on platforms and on trains; inaccessible platforms; and lack of toilets and refreshment facilities on trains.

The government's incomprehension of passenger need, its financial mismanagement, and lack of incentive to invest in rail, regenerate services, or work towards properly integrated and affordable public transport is deplorable.

Although the closure of ticket offices has been shelved there is no guarantee, as with its recent decisions on HS2, that there will not be a government U-turn in the future.

Buses carry more passengers than trains; the current government says they are the 'most loved;' of our public transport modes, but these words do not reflect government actions. Alleged 'savings' from cancelling the northern section of HS2 will allegedly buy "25 million bus miles" - these will not take long to use up.

Since deregulation bus services have been substantially cut and those services that have been retained are often unreliable, unpredictable, and infrequent. The bus transport system remains broken and fails to meet the needs of all age groups but especially pensioners.

Whilst research suggests that travel by car may be the preferred form of transport for many older people, this is not sustainable. The high purchase costs of electric cars and their replacement traction components will be a deterrent for pensioners.

Many pensioners do not have access to their own car, are unable to drive because of health issues, and cannot afford taxi fares.

We call on the National Pensioners Convention to campaign for and work with our affiliates and others to meet the following objectives:

1. To preserve and enhance existing train routes, to reopen closed stations and routes where practicable, together with a properly funded, accessible, and affordable integrated transport system that is safe and secure but also convenient.
2. For a public transport system that places staffing and servicing user needs before profits.
3. For investment in reliable modern rolling stock to ensure it meets current and future demands.
4. To achieve a regional model of public transport which respects passenger need instead of profit or administrative boundaries, meeting especially the needs of pensioners, providing an integrated public transport system and a cleaner sustainable environment.

5. To end privatisation and bring the national rail network and bus services into public ownership.

6. To commit to a different model of Public Transport, one which is organised and maintained by “Regional Transport Partnerships” comprising Local Councils and regional bodies. Such Regional Partnerships would be ideally placed to effectively plan and provide for local integrated networks. Buses are an essential part of the local, regional, and national economies, playing a vital role in the transport system.

**FOR: 88; AGAINST: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 THIS MOTION IS CARRIED**

#### **MOTION 4: TSSA - VOLUNTEERS**

This Conference notes that volunteers play a significant role in the UK economy. This is even more so due to governments' cutbacks in various budgets which affect our local facilities, such as libraries and health services, and also with the increased number of foodbanks.

Conference notes that research in 2022 by the Centre of Economics and Business Research estimated the annual value of voluntary work to the economy as £18.7bn, with charitable donations contributing an additional £4.3 bn. In total this represents 0.8% of total UK GDP, larger than the combined sports and gambling sector.

Conference observes that many volunteers are required to: -

- make themselves available (the sole voluntary choice), after which they are instructed where to report, when, and which times to be in post.
- undertake training (more than just site-related Health & Safety), including safeguarding criteria for vulnerable visitors, and
- in some cases, wear an obligatory uniform and name badge while on duty, which to the untrained eye may make the volunteer hard to distinguish from an employee.

Conference notes that in some cases, limited expenses such as travel may be reimbursed, which may be seen as placing the volunteer in a similar position to an employee.

Yet volunteers today have fewer rights than a paid employee belonging to the same organisation. They are unpaid workers in a working environment, without access to grievance procedures and/or disciplinary rights for adverse events. Although volunteers may have recourse to remedies using Human Rights or Equality law, the mechanisms for this are cumbersome and expensive, and no effective substitute for the sort of redress that has to be offered to employees.

Conference notes that a significant number of volunteers are retired people, making use of their skills and experience, and likely to have some experience in dealing with difficult situations. As part of NPC's commitment to intergenerational fairness, Conference urges experienced volunteers to offer advice and support to younger volunteers.

Conference notes that to say a volunteer can go somewhere else if they are unhappy, does nothing for the individual, especially if he/she loves/enjoys the organisation but is being bullied by another volunteer/organiser.

This Conference therefore calls on the NEC to actively liaise with bodies such as but not limited to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, to develop a pan-UK Volunteers' Charter, using such material as is already available, to establish and describe rights for all who offer their services as a volunteer, regardless of age and location, and to publicise the existence of such a Charter with a view to obtaining maximum sign-up from organisations making use of volunteers.

**FOR: 86; AGAINST: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 THIS MOTION IS CARRIED**

**MOTION 5: CSPA - Tax Thresholds**

The freezing of income tax thresholds since 2021 is eroding the value of State Pension increases as millions of pensioners are now being dragged into the basic 20% tax band. The number of over 65's paying income tax on their pension income has doubled since 2010 from 4.5 million to 9.1 million according to HM Revenue and Customs. From April 2024 many pensioners will not get the full 8.5% State Pension triple-lock increase if the rise takes their total pension income above the frozen tax threshold of £12,570, which is set to remain frozen until 2028.

This Biennial Delegate Conference instructs the National Executive Council to actively campaign for the basic tax threshold to be increased in line with inflation since April 2022, and then automatically index-linked to inflation in subsequent years.

**FOR: 82; AGAINST: 0; ABSTENTIONS: 0 THIS MOTION IS CARRIED**

**MOTION 6: NPC EAST MIDLANDS - CLIMATE CRISIS**

This Biennial Delegate Conference recognises that:

- the climate crisis is the biggest issue facing humanity.
- it affects pensioners today as well as future generations.
- 3,000 of 4,500 deaths due to excess heat in summer 2023 were of over 65s.
- governments and big business, despite fine words, have so far taken few effective measures to deal with the climate crisis.
- individual action can help but cannot solve the climate crisis.

The BDC calls on the NPC National Executive Council to establish and task a Climate Working Party to develop policies and campaigning to put to the NEC and BDCs on the climate crisis.

**AMENDMENT 1 - NPC WALES (not accepted by East Midlands)**

**Insert after** 'Individual action can help but cannot solve the climate crises.

This BDC calls for actions both local and global to start reducing global warming. These must be in the interests of older people and future generations.

This BDC calls for NPC to campaign for:

- 1) The UK Nationalisation of Energy and Hydrogen Production.
- 2) The development of low carbon Public Transport systems in the UK.
- 3) The costs of dealing with climate change must not fall on those least able to pay. Corporations and vested interests must pay up front for the damage they have caused.
- 4) Solidarity for the campaigns within society and between the generations.
- 5) Real international solidarity and against the meaningless semantics of the "COP out" process.

**Replace** 'The BDC calls on the NPC National Executive Council to establish and task a Climate Working Party to develop policies and campaigning to put to the NEC and BDCs on the climate crisis.'

With: 'To support this the NPC National Executive Council must establish and task a Climate Working Party to develop a strategy to support those demands.

**FOR: 15; AGAINST: 62; ABSTENTIONS: 3 THIS AMENDMENT IS LOST**

**MOTION UNAMENDED: FOR: 81; AGAINST: 0; ABSTENTIONS 3 THIS MOTION IS CARRIED**

The General Secretary explained the process for the new Working Party. Terms of Reference will need to be written and tabled at the next National Executive Council in May. We will then need to circulate to all national and regional affiliates for nominations to the Working Party. This takes time.

### **EMERGENCY MOTION NPC NORTHWEST:**

Conference opposes letting Government have access to personal information on our bank accounts. Therefore, NPC opposes clause 128 and schedule 11 of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill which would, if agreed by Parliament, allow the Government to receive certain information on the bank accounts of people in receipt of the state pension.

Conference agrees that Parliament should only grant Government the powers that it needs to fulfil its duties. This does not include giving the Government power to snoop on the bank accounts of pensioners. The exercise of these powers may be subject to future Parliamentary oversight, but we do not believe that this is sufficient. This opposition is expressed in petition <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/654080>.

Conference calls on NPC to communicate in the strongest terms to Government to drop its attempt to give itself these intrusive powers.

### **THIS MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Election results are as follows – votes in brackets:

President:	Norman Jemison	(92) elected
	Tony O'Brien	(34)
Vice Presidents x 4:	Sandra Durkin	(97) elected
	Barry Todman	(86) elected
	Les McDowell	(63) elected
	Mike McLoughlin	(39) elected
	Alan Gibson	(35)
	Tony O'Brien	(30)
	Roy Rix	(30)

The President thanked the General Secretary, Officers, NPC staff and Yarnfield staff whose hard work to hold this Conference is much appreciated. She paid respect to Ellen Lebethe – a long-standing Vice President of the NPC – who is standing down, but hopefully not from the NPC itself. Ellen responded by thanking everyone for their support over the years and that she would still be involved in the NPC. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion has a long way to go. She received a standing ovation.

Marion Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Rosie whose role as President has seen changes in the NPC and hoped that she would continue to be a vital part of the NPC in other ways.

The President wished everyone a safe journey home.

Conference closed at 12.30

**Note:** As **John Martin (N.Ire. West Branch)** and myself were the only two delegates in attendance from the **CWU**, this was a steep learning curve, as to how the **National Pensioners Convention Biennial Delegate Conference** business is conducted. To say a lot of it was based around previous disputes and personality clashes, would be only touching on the periphery of some of the underlying historical feelings in the room.

However, after a full morning wasted on procedural issues, bickering, and arguing, the conference got down to debating some matters of concern and a number of very good contributions were made. *Note: fully covered in the minute above.*

On the wider issue of representation on the NPC, I was somewhat surprised that **John Martin** and myself were the only **CWU** nominees forwarded for the **NPC Executive** elections, (myself as member and John as reserve), this from a union of our stature in the trade union movement and certainly there needs to be further rationale as to why there were so few of our retirees interested in being nominated?

Regards  
Lawrence C.Huston

Northern Ireland Telecom Branch  
National Retired Members Committee  
CWU.

April 2024.