

## North Yorkshire West Federation Women's Institutes

### North Yorkshire West Federation WI

#### The Minutes of the Spring Council Meeting 2021

Held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Due to a Technical problem with Zoom the start of the meeting was delayed.

Julie Clarke The Federation Chair opened the meeting. Due to the recent death of HRH Prince Philip the Husband of a fellow WI Member, as a mark of respect we had a short pause to reflect on his life followed by the National Anthem. Because of the delayed start, it was decided to start the meeting With the Chair introducing the Guest Speaker Ian Buchan. Ian had been a Magician for 30 years and was a past President of the Scottish Magic Circle. His interesting talk about his own career and the Celebrities he had worked with was highly informative and he amazed the members with 2 of his tricks. Unfortunately, that was all Ian had time to do.

Vote of Thanks. Anne Harrison thanked Ian for taking us to the land of Magic and entertaining us.

Welcome, Julie Clarke welcomed everyone to the 2021 Spring Council via Zoom.

Attending 54 Delegates

101 Visitors

Apologies 36 Institutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Thursday 10th December 2020 – Held via Zoom. The Chairman asked if these had been received and asked for a Proposer for accepting the adoption of the minutes. -- Heather Stoney from Glasshouses WI. All Delegates Voted 95% in favour and 3% Abstained.

Introduction of the Board of Trustees.

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Sue Butters has taken on the role of Minute taker. A member of Knox WI and is their Secretary. A member of the Membership Support and Training Committee and is a Trainee Adviser.

Anne Harrison, Member of Bainbridge WI, serves on Arts and Leisure Committee, Craft and Home Economics Committee and is Vice Chair of the Membership Support and Training Committee, and a WI Adviser.

Judith Stansfield, Member and Secretary of Melsonby WI, Chairman of Craft and Home Economics Committee, responsible for arranging our Zoom event program, acts as a shared Zoom host, and is the Editorial assistant of the Newsletter.

Hazel Smyth, Member of Marton Cum Grafton, Federation Treasurer, Webb Mistress, Technology Adviser, acts as shared host on Zoom. Responsible for sending all the information weekly to Institutes.

Heather Stoney, Member of Glasshouses WI, Chairman of Arts and Leisure Committee, Health and Safety, Risk assessment, Facilities Manager and responsible for the Federation Choir.

Liz Whapples, member of Burton Leonard WI, Science Representative, Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, responsible for promoting the Resolutions from National.

Julie Clarke, Member, Secretary and Treasurer of Coverdale WI, Federation Chairman for 2yr, Chairman of GYS Committee, serves on the Craft and home Economics Committee, liaising with Emma and Judith to produce the monthly Newsletter. Organizer of Catering for Federation and Committee Events. Julie is stepping down from the Chairmanship of the Federation at the end of this Meeting.

### **Presentation of the Accounts for year ending 31/12/2020**

Hazel Smyth welcomed everyone. The Accounts had been circulated to everyone prior. The Treasurer reported that 2020 was when the

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Federation Budget did not survive contact with COVID, the same as your Wis.

Like you the Federation Board and office team were thrown into an unknown situation with the office closed and Kim and Michelle working from home.

Great efforts were made to reduce expenditure by looking at all the costs and the opportunities by the Furlough scheme and Grants were investigated.

The accounts which have been audited, reflect these timely interventions by Treasurers --- Sue Earl – Armstrong, Jackie Williams and Pauline Bowman, together with generous government-based grants and donations received from WIs and Members.

We therefore have ended the year with a Surplus of £4,147.

2021 has started with some uncertainty and the future is still not crystal clear. We like you, are looking forward to WI meetings other than on zoom or outside but realise that a lot of venues including Alma House's capacity may not, until "Space" limits change, be viable for use.

Therefore, currently the Federation has limited opportunities to generate additional income over subscription income, so please consider supporting any Federation Events. If you have any ideas for events, please let us know but we realise WI's are in the same situation regarding events.

We continue to ensure that we are minimizing costs as much as possible, hence the efforts by unpaid Trustees to undertake work previously done by paid employees and the use of electronic, rather than Royal Mail for communications, reducing costs as much as possible.

Any Questions? No.

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Hazel proposed the adoption of the Annual Accounts 2020, Sue Earl-Armstrong from Barnoldswick Buttercups WI Seconded and the Delegates voted, 50 votes for and 2 abstained, 96%. The motion was carried.

Hazel proposed the Re appointment of Chartered Accountants JWP Creers LLP for the year 2021. They had been extremely helpful. Lesley Manser from Ripon Center WI seconded. The Delegates voted 49 for 1 abstained. 98% the motion was carried.

### Adoption of Annual Report 2020 and the work of the Committees

The Chairman asked the Delegates to vote for the Adoption of Annual Report and work of the committees which had been circulated prior. Seconded by Sara Baldwin – Cole from Coverdale WI. Votes for 47 3 abstained. Carried 94%

Resolution update, NYWest Zoom update and Communication Skills. See Attachment

200 Club Draw.

1<sup>st</sup> for £100 156 Lesley Manser

2<sup>nd</sup> for £50 234 Mary Middlemiss

3<sup>rd</sup> for £25 70 Elaine Duerden

### Chairman's Address and update, introduction of the new Chairman

Julie Clarke, the year started well both the Federation and the Institutes had lots of plans. Then came Covid followed by lock down and we ground to a halt. Technology became the norm for correspondence and passing information on, thank you to all those who embraced technology and Zoom. The Trustees used the furlough scheme, this meant the Staff were working only 1 week in 4.

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All the Trustees took on extra duties to keep the Federation afloat and the members informed, there were many changes and information from National to be passed on. One was the changes to the constitution which we thank our institutes and members for taking the time to look at the proposals. You will now have a copy of the revised constitution and can see how much more flexible it is. Would the institutes please add their WI name to the document, which can now be stored electronically. If there are WI's without that facility a paper copy can be sent but to save printing costs it would be helpful if as many WI as possible store electronically. I have been asked about Denman and what is happening now, there is no new information, talks with the Charities Commission are ongoing. When the sale goes ahead all the monies raised will go to education. What do you think of the slimmed down version of the newsletter? It is much easier for institutes to print copies off for those members who do not have the technology to receive it via email. We received a grant for £1000 pounds, and we are using this to give every institute £10 towards the cost of printing the newsletter.

In 2020 there were 2 items we did not complete they are the certificates for WI Birthdays, and Long Service membership. We hope to hand these out at the Autumn Lunch at Tennant's. National are also sending certificate out.

The National Annual Meeting is on Zoom this year and normally the Delegates would have a ratio of 1 in 4 WI's, this year it will be 1 in 8 WI's. Sue Earl – Armstrong the chair of Membership has organized the grouping and the Secretaries will be sent this information when we hear from National. The meeting will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> June there may be some visitor tickets to join the Zoom. The speakers for the resolutions will be heard by the Delegates who can report back to their WI's and they will have time to discuss the issues and vote accordingly by 9<sup>th</sup> July.

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I have great pleasure introducing the new Chairman of NYWF Heather Stoney I wish Heather every success and great happiness.

New Chairman's address including announcement of next year's Spring Council.

Thank You Julie

I am both proud and privileged to be elected as chairman of this wonderful Federation for the next year. I am following in some very prestigious footsteps, on my time on the Board I have worked with both Pauline and Julie. I hope that I can serve the Federation nearly as well as they both did.

We have had a very difficult and challenging year, as most charities and organizations have, particularly not being able to meet up with our WI friends. Hopefully, there is light at the end of the tunnel as we continue to follow the guidelines.

At this point can I express thanks to our Chair and all the Trustees for their hard work and support over the last year. Please can we give them a hearty WI round of applause.

As a Federation our main priority is to assist our members to get back to face-to-face meetings, it will be baby steps to begin with in small groups and eventually leading up to larger ones. This I do not think will happen until the end of the year, WI members are very positive, resilient ladies and renowned for helping others but if ever you need help, please ask us or your wonderful team of advisers for any guidance you might need.

Zoom has been a fantastic tool for keeping people in touch which I know members have really enjoyed, but lots of members have been unable to do this, we must support them as we are able to meet up.

The federation at present has no paid staff and all the Trustees are doing all the tasks at home as soon as it is safe to reopen Alma House and employ a federation secretary again, we will. We can then slowly

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start using our fine building again. Do not be surprised though there will be a few changes due to COVID restrictions, but we do take our duty of care to you our members very seriously.

We do have events to look forward to in the future – Autumn Lunch will be at Tennant's on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October – would not this be wonderful to be able to meet up again, I am sure there will be restrictions in place, but it would be a joy to get together.

Last year we were to hold a Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate 100 years of the WI in Yorkshire. Sadly, this was cancelled, but this year more than ever we felt it appropriate to have a Service of Thanksgiving. This will be in Ripon Cathedral on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

Spring Council 2022 will be held at the Majestic Hotel – I think it is called Doubletrees now. It will take place on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the year, please remember we are always here to help you all, it is because of you our members that I am here and looking forward to the "Wonderful World of the WI's" in whatever form it takes in the next 12 months.

Jerusalem was sung.

The Meeting ended at 9pm