



## National Operational Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday 18th March at 13:00 via Zoom

### Present

Andy McCombe	Chair NOC and East Midlands
Kevin Claxton	South Eastern Branch
Darren Nugent	Yorkshire and the Humber Branch
Claire Wise	West Midlands Branch
Roy Chape	Welsh Branch
Peter Cheesman	Human Aspects PWG
Bob Wade	Communications PWG

### In attendance

Jeannie Barr	Acting Chair and Director for Professional Standards & Learning
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### Apologies

Phil Emonson	Flood Resilience
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### 1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions & Apologies

NOC Chair to open meeting, request introductions from those attending and report any apologies received.

**Previous minutes, - dated 21 January** – Andy McCombe- Reviewed and agreed

PWG's to have EPS email addresses set up  
Branch Handbook – on hold till structure has been agreed  
HAG Business plan has been sent to Board

### 2. Board Update - Jeannie Barr

Jacqui has decided to step down as Chair so she can continue with her recovery

Full details for recruitment of new directors included Chair will be started soon.

A panel will be set up to interview candidates this will include Board, NOC & Fellows

NOC send their best wishes to Jacqui and thanks for all her work

Appointment of a President was discussed and NOC agreed to support the invitation of the preferred candidate.

### Branch Re Structure

### 3. Strategic Day Outcomes –



Jeannie gave an update following the Strategic Day and will share the slides with NOC members for the proposed structure of the EPS to be discussed with their branches then to become the main agenda item at the April NOC meeting.

Stress awareness month is in April and National Student Network in ongoing

#### **4. Branch updates - those present**

##### **Andy McCombe East Midlands / Dep Chair NOC**

A Link to the first in a series of Webinar's (FloodEx22 Voluntary Sector Teams Webinar 7 April 2022) has been shared, please share with branch members and Sue will add to the website

Drone Event in September is progressing.

##### **Kevin Claxton South Eastern**

Meeting yesterday following branch AGM. Would like to hold events depending on members wishes, real or virtual is being discussed.

##### **Darren Nugent Yorkshire and the Humber**

The branch is holding their AGM on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - via MS Teams – and this will be followed by a presentation by Tracey Merrifield, the Emergency Preparedness Resilience & Response (EPRR) Manager for Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, on how the 2018 Novichok attack unfolded at Salisbury Hospital.

The presentation will be open to the wider EPS membership to join – details to follow once confirmed.

Following this the branch is planning its first face to face meeting and social in July 2022.

##### **Claire Wise West Midlands**

Drone policy for Network Rail - branch may be included in exercise  
Volunteer sector - encouraging them to be members was discussed.

##### **Roy Chape Welsh**

Branch Conference 31<sup>st</sup> March – 1st April. The theme is “a New Dawn” details have been circulated to all branches.

##### **Andy Swap North West (added after the meeting)**

The Branch held a learning event for the Branch on the 9th March which was well attended with approximately 30 members in attendance listening to John Perkins MEPS from Derbyshire Police talking about the response and command and control requirements for the Whalley Bridge Reservoir incident in 2019, this was followed by a Q & A session.

A Cyber lunchtime learning event was arranged for Thursday 31st March, it was a Teams session and open to the wider EPS membership an email with joining instructions on the EPS website.

A further event has been organised in conjunction with the Cabinet Office for Tuesday 19th May this will include a presentation including an update on the review



of the National Resilience Strategy/Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The event will be held via Microsoft Teams to maximise attendance. The Cabinet Office are keen to reach all members of the EPS in one event than presenting to individual Branches therefore event will be made available to all EPS members. Further details to follow.

## **5. PWG updates - those present**

### **Peter Cheesman - Human Aspects**

JESIP; we are seeking to widen the definition of casualties to include all those immediately affect so the welfare support services can be alerted and activated as soon as possible.

Reports & Guidance; we are looking at ways of improving accessibility to all documentation.

We are seeking to discuss with BASW, ADASS, ADCS & APPH the role of social care in disasters including Local Authority Humanitarian Assistance Lead Officers. [Social work, adult social care, children's services, public health]

As soon as it is EPS badged team will Publish "Key Human Aspect Principles" & a supporting Infographic

We have a group meeting to discuss the role of Colleagues giving and/or seeking advice on Human Aspects during emergencies.

Publicity: We are keen to involve the National Student Group and others in improving publicity and communications via the EPS Website, as well as HAG+CR Twitter and LinkedIn to spread good practice on Human Aspects as widely as possible.

We are initiating a group on support mechanism

We are planning Webinars/Huddles on the Human Aspects of the Salisbury Train Crash, in conjunction with colleagues from the Rail Delivery Group & GWR.

National Standards in HA.

Volunteering.

Practical guidance on crowd behaviour in incidents.

Professor Lucy Easthope's new book

Publishing a draft for consultation on a Code of Respect towards those affected by disaster [revision of a previous HAG document]

We have written a message to EPS Members relating to tragedy in Ukraine.

### **Bob Wade- Communications**

First meeting has taken place, Chair and Vice chair are now in place

## **6. Any Other Business**

No other business

## **7. Meeting Dates for 2022**

22 Apr, 27 May, 24 Jun, (no meetings in Jul/Aug), 2 Sep, 21 Oct, 25 Nov. (no Dec meeting)