



Emergency Planning Society South-East Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd March and
3rd May 2023 on the Zoom platform.

Attendance and apologies

Members attending 23rd March

Kevin Claxton (chair)
Tom Crellin
Steve Scully
Richard Highgate
Christopher Cocking
Christopher McGonigall
Nick Berry

Guests attending 23rd March

Peter Cheesman (National Trustee)
Paul Basson (London branch)

Apologies were received from: Virginia Murray, Nathan Hazlehurst, Andrew Gaffney,
and Ron Mountain

Members attending 5th May

Kevin Claxton (chair)
Tom Crellin
Nathan Hazlehurst
Richard Highgate
Amber Cowan
Michael Rowland
Andy Reeves
Christopher McGonigall
Sian Deller
Christopher Cocking
Rushkan De Mel

Guests attending 5th May

Ronald Mountain (London Branch)
Paul Basson (London Branch)
Matt Hogan (London Branch)

Apologies were received from Steve Scully

Quorum 23rd March

The meeting opened at 13:00

The quorum for a branch general meeting is 10 branch members. As the quorum was not reached, the general meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, May 3rd at 18:30 on the Zoom platform. All nominations are held over until the adjourned meeting and the existing committee will continue in office until then.

Quorum 3rd May

The meeting opened at 18:30. The quorum of 10 branch members present was reached.

The chairman thanked all present for attending.

Chair of the meeting

It was unanimously agreed that Kevin Claxton would chair the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 7th December 2021 were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

The report (reproduced below) was noted.

Election of Officers

The following were re-elected unopposed:

Chair - Kevin Claxton (nominated by Tom Crellin)

Membership – Nathan Hazlehurst (nominated by Tom Crellin)

Secretary - Tom Crellin (nominated by Kevin Claxton)

Events - Richard Highgate (nominated by Tom Crellin)

Committee members - Steve Scully and Andrew Gaffney (nominated by Tom Crellin)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 18:45



Emergency Planning Society South-East Branch

AGM 2022 -23 – CHAIRS REPORT

Firstly 'welcome' and thank you to members for giving up your time to attend this AGM. The Branch and the wider Society recognise the impacts of the Covid Pandemic and a wide range of challenges and incidents which continue to impact on all our working lives. This report represents my report on the activities of the Branch during the last year, including an update on The National Society

The past year has continued to be 'difficult' for these reasons, and we recognise that (whilst we have continued to support wider Society events), the impacts of these challenges have resulted in less Branch activity than we would have wished. This has largely resulted in a lack of Branch level events, although we are now focused on putting that right as we emerge from the pandemic era.

The Committee has faced its impacts from these incidents in the same way that they have impacted members. Whilst the Branch continues to be healthy financially (with a balance of £2647.35 as of 20th February), we have not been as 'connected' with members as we would have wished, work undertaken by the Branch Committee falls into four main areas:

1. The Committee has had meetings and has been in regular contact by email and zoom so as to organise this AGM and the 'virtual' webinar which follows on straight afterwards today. We hope that you will join us, our speaker Ed, and members from other Branches today. We are also exploring options for an 'in person' event hopefully in the early summer this year, and this may be preceded by another virtual event. We hope to be in contact with members soon, with more details for these events. We have also maintained our Twitter account @TheEPSSEast
2. As part of a nation-wide programme of support to some Branch which were struggling, the SouthEastern branch Committee was tasked by the Society with providing support to the London Branch. I was able to send an email to London Branch members which has resulted in a small group of its members coming forward. Two meetings of a small group which is now engaged in rejuvenating the London branch have now taken place. As part of these arrangements, London Branch members were invited to this event today, and we look forward to providing continued support.

3. We have tried to prioritise communications with new members (although we realise those members may have expected more support than has been possible on occasion. The latest information we have is that Branch membership currently stands at 82 with 12 cancellations and 8 new or returning members recorded during the year.

Reasons for cancellation	Reasons for joining
Retirement / change of job / moved area – 6 Don't feel benefit of membership – 3 Difficulties with upgrade to full member – 1 No response – 2	Re-joined – 2 Recommended by member – 1 EPS magazine – 2 Branch transfer – 1 Information not supplied to us – 2

4. We have also been engaged with the National Society. The Branch committee has generally attended most monthly NOC meetings, and supported arrangements for National Society Events, including the AGM that was held last year. We recognise that 2023 is the 30 year anniversary of the Society and we hope that members continue to support both National & Branch events during this year, and also take advantage of opportunities offered when the Society reaches out to engage with members. The Society is engaged on:

- A. Supporting some Branches as the Society emerges from the Pandemic
- B. Celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Society
- C. Building the membership of the Society and raising its profile nationally
- D. Ensuring the Governance & Assurance of the Society is fit for purpose
- E. Improving Communications between the Society & members
- F. Continuing to promote and support National & branch events

In finishing this report, we would like to stress that despite the challenges we all face with time and commitment, we continue to work on behalf of our members, and we hope that you will feel able to communicate in return, to engage, and to support our events. We welcome any thoughts, ideas, or concerns that you may wish to raise!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Kevin Claxton

Chair, SouthEastern Branch, The EPS.