Short Report on the AGM

HEREFORDSHIRE HEALTH and SAFETY GROUP

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Warehouse 701

ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25th 2023 at 1830 hours.

Present (committee) (7) Phil Chandler (Chair), Roger Bibbings, Adrian Gale, Gavin Pettigrew, Rebecca Lewis, Les Coultas, Mike Burge

Present (members) (1) Amber Bradshaw (Ornua),

Apologies (8) Peter Smith, Jane Stevenson, Bruce Chartres, James Mattock (Wyevale Nurseries), Sue Lunn (Herefordshire Headway), Susannah Burridge, Julia Cotton, Ron Aston

AGM

Introduction from the Chair Phil Chandler who outlined the HSE Strategy 2022 to 2023 and sets out the work they will undertake in 2022/23 against the five strategic objectives:

* Reduce work-related ill health, with a specific focus on mental health and stress.
* Increase and maintain trust to ensure people feel safe where they live, where they work and, in their environment.
* Enable industry to innovate safely to prevent major incidents, supporting the move towards net zero.
* Maintain Great Britain’s (and Herefordshire’s) record as one of the safest places to work in.
* Be a good organisation to work for

The statistics suggest that stress, depression and anxiety are the predominant forms of work-related illness in Britain. 914,000 workers – just over half of the 1.8 million total suffering from work-related ill health – are estimated to have stress, depression or anxiety as a result of their work.

* Of the 914,000, 372,000 workers are suffering from a new case of work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2021/22.
* These statistics highlight a growing crisis in work-related stress and mental health problems.
* Work-related musculoskeletal disorders
* Musculoskeletal disorders make up the second-largest portion of work-related ill health, with 477,000 workers suffering from these in 2021/2022. Of these, 139,000 workers are suffering from a new disorder that began within the 12-month period.

These objectives should be included in our seminar plans for 2023. It was agreed that the new committee would review our seminar plan to reflect these objectives.

* President’s Address: Roger Bibbings: Roger had issued his thoughts prior to the meeting and he emphasised the extra workload health and safety professionals and what the Group could do to help. He also thought the Group should be proud of its achievements as shown by attendance at seminars etc. He too thought that our seminar programme should reflect HSE ‘hot topics’ such as mental health. He also thought that we should try to underline what the health and safety role within a business should be – more advisory less actually doing to achieve more ownership within the organisation.
* Last years’ AGM minutes were reviewed and accepted as correct – there were no outstanding issues with all matters raised at that meeting resolved.
* Treasurer’s Report: Adrian Gale: Group in a healthy position money wise but important we keep our membership numbers up and recruit new members if possible. The accounts for 2022 were discussed, they had been independently examined and were approved by the meeting.

Election of Officers (4)

Phil Chandler indicated he wanted to stand down as Chair but wanted to remain on the Committee.

Peter Smith had informed the Group of his resignation at Committee secretary due to ill health. The meeting thanked Peter for his hard work over the last few years and wished him well in the future. Ron Aston is also suffering ill health and advised he could no longer be a committee member. Following a vote the following persons were elected:

Chair: Les Coultas.

Deputy Chair: Gavin Pettegrew

Treasurer / Membership Secretary: Adrian Gale.

Committee Secretary: Amber Bradshaw

Election of Committee (5)

Members re-elected. Phil Chandler, Jane Stevenson, Mike Burge, Rebecca Lewis and Peter Smith.

President (1)

Roger Bibbings will continue as our President.