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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SUBPOSTMASTERS

**REPORT OF A
MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

held on

9-11 January 2006

at

**THE GRIMSTOCK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL
COLES HILL, WARWICKSHIRE**

Report of a Meeting of the National Executive Council

held on Monday, 9 January to Wednesday, 11 January 2006
at the Grimstock Country House Hotel, Warwickshire

Those present:	Mrs Trish Jenkins Mrs Irene Bethell Mr Alan Butlin Mr Michael Darvill Mr Norman Ferguson Mr Dave Foster Mr Phil Howorth Mr Cyril Jones Mr Mervyn Jones	National President and Chairman Mrs Kam Matharu Mr David Milner Mr John Morris Mr John Peberdy Mrs Sally Reeves Mr Keith Richards Mr Geoff Simpson Mr George Thomson
In attendance:	Mr Colin Baker Ms Marilyn Stoddart Mr John Willshaw	General Secretary Assistant General Secretary Assistant General Secretary

THE PRESIDENT welcomed Mr John Willshaw to the meeting in his new role as Assistant General Secretary. She explained that the suspension of Mr Mark Baker from Executive Council meetings remained in place.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY mentioned the departure of David Mills from Post Office Limited and the fact that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible when Alan Cook joined in March 2006.

ACTION

A/1 REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

- The Minutes of the Executive Council meeting on 3, 4 and 5 October 2005 were signed as a true record.
- The Resolutions passed at the Executive Council meeting of 3, 4 and 5 October 2005 were signed as a true record.

DECISION

DECISION

A/2 MATTERS ARISING

- There were no matters arising.

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

ACTION

ACTION

DECISION

ACTION

ACTION

ACTION

Irrelevant

4. Product Range

PC PR

(a) Automated Postal Orders Proposal

PC PR 01

- New product to be welcomed.
- Negotiating Committee worked hard to get as much as possible for Subpostmasters for the transaction.
- One query is the affect on sales of postage stamps as they will no longer be required on postal orders. Awaiting information from Post Office Limited.
- Interim offer to be reviewed once real data is available recommended for acceptance by the Negotiating Committee.
- There followed considerable discussion on the subject.
- It was felt by the Negotiating Committee that the transaction would be quicker with less back office work.
- Deliberately pitched to be cheaper than a bankers draft and new upper limited of £250.
- Percentage based payment did not stack up at the lower end of the range.
- When issued, Horizon will generate a serial number to be held on a database. When cashed, bar code scanned and automatically checked against database so fraud will be less likely. Serial number also shown on receipt (no counterfoil).
- Negotiating Committee to go back to Post Office Limited to try to achieve a higher payment for the transaction.

ACTION

Irrelevant

DECISION

ACTION

Irrelevant

ACTION

ACTION

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ACTION

ACTION

Irrelevant

ACTION

ACTION

6. Subpostmasters Pay

PC SP

(a) Goodwill Payments Communication

PC SP 2005

- A request was made for clarification on the qualification criteria.
- There followed some discussion on the situation regarding long term Horizon failures around the country.
- Meeting at Dearne discussed processes to monitor and speed up the response to failures.
- Problems partly caused by complicated contract with Fujitsu involving other third parties.
- GSM facility being introduced to try to keep offices online when land line facilities fail.

ACTION

ACTION

ACTION

DECISION

Irrelevant

ACTION

DECISION

ACTION

DECISION

Irrelevant

ACTION

(i) Bill Payment

PC SP 01

- Previous debate told Post Office Limited to bid to win bill payment business.
- Paypoint and Payzone doing very well in the market and have acquired some large contracts.
- They are doing it very cheaply as they attract footfall to outlets.
- Offer for South Eastern Electric is 7p for Subpostmasters.
- Bill payment also drives core tier payment.
- If offer accepted it would reduce transaction pay from £22.3 million to £14 million, a reduction of £8.73 million.
- BT going out to tender one year early.
- Horizon cannot deal with the latest update in Quantum pre payments.
- Other avenue is Paystation with a payment of 7p and no contribution to core tier payment.
- Negotiating Committee trying to get more Paystations than the currently planned 3,000.
- Various possible options were discussed around the remuneration for bill payment.
- The Negotiating Committee feared that Subpostmasters would do the work for 7p to retain the footfall.
- A request was made to find out what Paystation and Payzone charged their clients.
- Offices worst hit by ACT would almost certainly be worst hit by the drop in payment levels.
- Negotiating Committee to find out exactly what Post Office Limited take from the transaction.
- Negotiating Committee to take to the highest levels at Post Office Limited as they could not accept such a reduction in Subpostmaster remuneration but it would be a real fight.

ACTION

ACTION

ACTION

- MR PEBERDY proposed *'That the Negotiating Committee go back to Post Office Limited to try to increase the offer on bill payment.'* This was agreed.

DECISION

DECISION

Irrelevant

ACTION

ACTIC

ACTION

Irrelevant

ACTION

(d) Dismissed Subpostmasters

PC SC 03

- MR DARVILL had been informed that when a Subpostmaster or mistress was dismissed that their partner/spouse was no longer able to apply for the position.
- It was agreed that the matter would be raised with Post Office Limited.

ACTION

Irrelevant

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Irrelevant

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DECISION

DECISION

DECISION

DECISION
/ ACTION

Irrelevant

ACTION

AGREED

Irrelevant

DECISION

Irrelevant

AGREED

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AGREED

AGREED

Irrelevant

5. ORGANISATION

FM OG

a) Future Executive Council Meetings

FM OG

- 19,20,21 & 22 March 2006
- 19,20 & 21 June 2006
- 2, 3 & 4 October 2006
- 8,9,10 January 2007

- All to be held at the Grimstock Country House Hotel
- Discussions took place as to changing the venue for the October meeting.
- After debate it was agreed to continue to hold the October 2006 and January 2007 meeting at the Grimstock Country House Hotel.

DECISION

DECISION

Irrelevant

AGREED

Irrelevant

A/6(a) Finance

FI AC

a) Treasurer's Report

FI AC 02

- The Treasurer's report had been circulated. MR MILNER was pleased with the Interim Review.
- The legal and professional fees had been a worry but were satisfied with the expenditure at present.
- There was concern on the future of the rural network and the impact this would have on loss of subscription income when the Government announces closures.
- Clarification was sought and given about unnecessary attendances by some Executive Council members at Postcomm meetings.

MR MILNER moved the report.

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

ACTION

Irrelevant

ACTION

Irrelevant

DECISION
ACTION

Irrelevant

Irrelevant

DECISION

DECISION

Irrelevant

ACTION

Julie Connolly
Sharon Merryweather
Lynda Willoughby

January 2006

GRO

Irrelevant

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Irrelevant

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Irrelevant

