

Retired Prison Governors Association

A section of The Prison Governors Association

Treasurer

Graham Mumby-Coft
graham.mumbycroft@gmail.com

Chairman

Graham Smith
graham.smith646@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary

Ray London
raymond_london@hotmail.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held via Zoom on Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 14.00hrs.

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting. He stated that it was good to see some new faces to the meeting.

1. Present: (14 in total)

Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman)
Ray London (Secretary)
Harry Brett
Jan Thompson (Minutes)
Paul Laxton
Graham Mumby-Croft
Dave Taylor

Members:

Barbara Longstaff
Barbara Treen
Mel Dickinson
Peter Mate
Helen Dickinson
Carole Jones
Colin Ring

2. Apologies:

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Roger Outram
John Pudney
Peter Earnshaw

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2019.

These were published on the RPGA Website and also included in the Autumn Newsletter 2020. All members present voted and agreed to adopt the minutes as a true record.

Proposed by: Dave Taylor
Seconded by: Ray London

4. Matters arising

Reference	Action	Responsibility	Progress
5i.10.19	To communicate with the PGA Treasurer with a view to transferring the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA	Graham Mumby-Croft	Completed - Benevolent Fund has been transferred to the PGA
5ii.10.19	To write an article for the next newsletter reference the digitisation of future Newsletters on the web page and to invite comments on what members think of this proposal, prior to further discussion	Ray London & Paul Laxton	Completed - published in the Autumn 2019 Newsletter

8i.10.19	To contact James Bryant from the PGA to enquire if they have access to an archive of RPGA Newsletters	Paul Laxton	Completed - contacted James Bryant but they don't have an archive of the RPGA Newsletters
8ii.10.19	To contact RPGA members to ask the same question as above (AP 8i.10.19)	Paul Laxton	Completed - two responses received, with extracts being included in the Autumn 2020 Newsletter

5. Treasurers' Report

The Treasurer noted that when reporting to the AGM the figures that he mentions are for the financial year to the end of 2019 and, as such, are almost 12 months out of date.

The main points that were highlighted from the 2019 accounts were as follows:

Total Income for the year was £5658.00 (a decrease of £54.00 from the previous year).

Total Expenditure was £3165.42 (a decrease of £1668.94 from the previous year).

Surplus of Income over Expenditure was £1667.94 (an increase of £781.30 from the previous year).

Cash Balance at the end of 2019 was £13267.83 (an increase of £2492.58 from the previous year).

The Treasurer pointed out that this was the best surplus figure he had seen during his time as treasurer. He went on to say that we now charge a realistic price for the annual diaries, having made

losses on these items in previous years, and does not foresee a need to increase membership subscriptions for at least two years.

He reported that the latest bank statement (dated the 2nd November 2020) showed a cash balance of £14,137.27. This was after paying the printers' costs of £2768.61 for the Autumn Newsletter. The autumn newsletter had cost between £1200 and £1300 more than a normal newsletter because it was a bigger issue, in colour and more widely distributed. The Treasurer concluded that he was more than happy that we are financially solvent.

After a brief description of the purpose of the Benevolent Fund, and pointing out that it used to sit with the PGA as their Charity Fund, Graham went on to say that the PGA had agreed to take it back and he had written them a cheque for the total sum that was in the account and the Benevolent Fund has now been dissolved to them in accordance with the agreed action point from the last AGM.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions for the treasurer. Peter Mate asked the treasurer if, now that we have given the Benevolent Fund back to the PGA, do we still have any claim on the fund? In reply, the treasurer stated that we have an agreement with the PGA that allows any of our members to make an application to the PGA in the same way they would have done to us.

There were no further question put forward and members were asked to vote, using the Zoom Application Polling System, on a motion to accept the Finance Report (as just delivered by the Treasurer and also published in full in the Autumn Newsletter) as a financial situation of the association.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft, Seconded by: Harry Brett and agreed by all members present.

The Chairman thanked Graham for looking after the accounts for another year stating that it was reassuring to hear that we are in a good financial position.

6. Membership Report

Harry Brett gave a breakdown of the membership as follows:

At the AGM in October 2019 there were 416 members.

At the AGM in November 2020 there are 404 members.

There have been 14 new members joined in this time, 2 resignations and 9 members who have been untraceable. Unfortunately there have been 15 members who have died during this period.

The Chairman asked Harry what we had done this year to improve our membership to which Harry replied that every month James Bryant sends him a list of people who have retired and Harry sends them an application form to join the RPGA. He also stated that he occasionally receives an application form or email from people who have themselves approached James Bryant for this information. Graham went on to thank Harry for his ongoing work to slowly keep our heads above water and Harry added that the Autumn Newsletter, which included an application form in it, had been distributed to all establishments, Headquarters and Area Managers throughout the UK and also to some overseas posts, e.g. Jersey.

After reading out the names (as printed below), the Chairman led a one minute silence for our deceased members.

MEMBERS

Brian Thulborn

Brian Coatsworth

James Edwards BEM ISM

Geoff Lister

Bernard Wilson MBE

Harold Prior

Mrs Low

Eddie Healy

Malcolm Manning

Ingrid Claydon

Olwen Spiers

Marjorie Marchant

Pat Nolan

Danny Ozanne
Harry Fry

NON-MEMBERS

Judith Mathews
William Rose-Quirie OBE
Colin Baker
Mel Constantine
Malcolm Lewis
Ruth Mann
Paul Dixon
Olivia Kerr

7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.

Graham Smith mentioned that we were very lucky as we have three committee members who are formally involved with the CSPA.

Harry Brett, who is on the NEC and a Regional Representative for the North West, said that although some of our members have joined the CSPA most RPGA members don't want a formal link with the CSPA but he always sends new RPGA members an application form for the CSPA. He went on to say that it had been noted that MyCSP have made mistakes with some peoples' pension payments and that there are some CSPA members who used to work for MyCSP and can give a certain amount of advice, whereas we (the RPGA) don't have expertise in this area. He also explained some of the advantages of joining the CSPA, mentioning that for the subscription fee of around £2.00 per month you can get discounts at certain supermarkets, free representation, free legal advice and many other things.

8. Newsletter

Paul Laxton commented that the autumn newsletter is a glossy fortieth anniversary issue, the first ever issue being published by Arthur Williamson. Paul gave thanks to Brendon O'Friel for supplying items from his personal archive so that the retro section

could be included to give a little bit of history. He went on to say that the printers had done a great job in its' production after he scanned in some old pages from The Key (which he used to be the editor of) to show them the type of colour scheme he wanted them to produce.

He commented that he had received some positive feedback about this issue, including the seal of approval from Brendon O'Friel. At this point Paul mentioned that, due to personal reasons, he won't be editing the next issue but Graham Mumby-Croft and Roger Outram will take over. Calling it a labour of love, he said that he had enjoyed editing the anniversary issue. The Chairman thanked Paul for his work and asked if there were any questions.

Peter Mate commented that he thought it was a superb issue and a very good advertising vehicle for new members and asked that if there were any spare copies could these be sent to potential new members? Harry said that he still has some spare copies and he always sends a copy to someone who says they want to join and also has some copies that we can use at the next PGA Conference next October when we also have our meeting.

Peter Mate replied that he thought it was money well spent to do the colour and maybe we could repeat this if funds allow. This was endorsed by the chairman who also passed on our best wishes to Paul and his wife.

9. Website Update and email Register.

Unfortunately Roger Outram was unable to attend this AGM as he was experiencing a major internet failure but he provided the chairman with a text saying that the website was having ongoing updates and the chairman urged everyone to have a look at the website, as Roger values feedback on what should be on there and what can be done to improve it. Harry mentioned that Roger had put a number of old photographs on the website, many of them early class photographs from the training schools.

Harry said that the email register was still going strong. There are 184 members on the register but Harry reminded us that people don't get added to the register automatically when they join due to the data information act and members must notify him that they

wish to be placed on the email list. He also commented that email was a good way to get information out to the members.

10. Election of Officers

At this stage, Graham Mumby-Croft took over the meeting for the process of re-election of officers to the committee as Graham Smith was one of the committee members up for re-election.

The first member up for re-election was Graham Smith. Proposed by: Harry Brett, Seconded by: Paul Laxton. All members present were asked to vote and it was accepted unanimously.

The second member up for re-election was Ray London. Proposed by: Jan Thompson, Seconded by: Harry Brett and, again, accepted unanimously.

The third member up for re-election was Jan Thompson. Proposed by: Paul Laxton, Seconded by: Barbara Longstaff and was accepted unanimously.

Ray London pointed out that these re-elections to the committee were for a period of four years.

Graham Smith again took over the meeting and thanked everyone for their confidence in re-electing the committee members. He went on to say that Dave Taylor was stepping down after the AGM and the chairman thanked Dave for all his help and support whilst he served on the committee. Graham then asked if anyone present would be willing to step forward onto the committee and, after being met with a wall of silence, asked Helen Dickinson if she would consider the appointment. Her reply was that she was unable to commit to that at the moment but would give it some thought and consideration before replying by email.

11. Date of next Annual General Meeting

It is hoped that the next AGM will take place in October 2021 at the same time and venue as the PGA Conference but this will be confirmed as soon as we are able to make plans. Finally, the

Chairman thanked those who attended and the meeting closed at 14.45hrs.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

None recorded during this meeting.

