

# **Retired Prison Governors Association**

A section of The Prison Governors Association

## **Chairman**

Graham Smith

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## **Treasurer**

Graham Mumby-Croft

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## **Secretary**

Ray London

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## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Tuesday 12th October 2021 at 13.30hrs and via Zoom.**

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed members to this years' Annual General Meeting, both those who attended in person and those members who attended via Zoom.

### **1. Present: (8 in total)**

#### Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman)

Ray London (Secretary)

Harry Brett

Jan Thompson (Minutes)

Paul Laxton

#### Members:

Eoin McLennan-Murray

Via Zoom:

Barbara Longstaff  
John Pudney

## **2. Apologies:**

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Graham Mumby-Croft (Officiating at the PGA Conference )  
Roger Outram  
John Berry  
Barbara Treen  
Dave Taylor  
Agatha Prempah  
Denise Hodder

## **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 10th November 2020.**

These were published on the RPGA Website. All members present voted and agreed to adopt the minutes as a true record.

Proposed by: Ray London  
Seconded by: Paul Laxton

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the last AGM.

## **5. Treasurers' Report - Graham Mumby-Croft**

Unfortunately Graham was unavailable to discuss his report but had sent a copy of the annual report (Financial Year 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020) to all members for perusal.

In it he reported that the Current Account Balance at the end of the financial year stood at £14,228.52. **Income** from 1/1/20 to 31/12/20 was all from subscriptions: £5,432.00, whilst the **Total Expenditure** for the year was: £4,471.31. This was made up of the costs for Printing; Stationary; Post/Phone; Donations and Miscellaneous.

The Lloyds Benevolent Fund Account was transferred to the PGA on the 4/6/20, a total of £5,703.36, and the account closed.

The headline from the report being that the Association made a surplus of Income over Expenditure of £960.69p for the year and, whilst this was a lower surplus than the previous year, it is still a healthy sum which allowed Graham to safely predict that he saw no reason why the current rate of **basic** membership subscription would need to be increased in the foreseeable future. The report continued to say that there are indications that both the cost of producing the PGA Diary and postage costs will increase in the coming year and therefore he could not make the same prediction for the subscription rate of those who chose to **receive a PGA Diary** as part of their membership. However, this needed to be seen in the context that our income from subscriptions reduces every year for the simple reason that, sadly, we lose more members than we gain. If costs are carefully controlled we can sustain the gradual reduction of income for the foreseeable future and Graham was comfortable that we have a “sufficient” cash balance in the bank to allow for this.

Also contributing to the lower expenditure total was the fact that the committee were unable to meet in person and instead conducted business via ZOOM meetings, meaning that Travel and Subsistence costs for the year were zero.

The main reason for the reduction in the surplus was entirely due to the increase in cost of producing and distribution of the Newsletter.

The management committee had made a decision at the start of the year that the 40th Anniversary edition of The Newsletter would be the 'best one ever' and that we would place no financial restrictions on the editor (Paul Laxton) with regard to it's size or quality. There is no doubt that this was money well spent and the 40th edition was indeed the best ever.

This lead the committee to the decision that as The Newsletter is our primary means of communication with members and indeed in many cases our only means of communication, we decided that we would invest in increased production values for The Newsletter by including more colour photos and good quality paper.

The report went on to highlight that there is no doubt that 2021 has seen a move back toward some sort of 'normality' but the management committee have tried to allow for continued restrictions or disruption by continuing our subscription to the ZOOM service, thereby giving us the flexibility for future meetings to be held either in person or virtually, via ZOOM.

The Treasurers' report was accepted as a true record.  
Proposed by: Paul Laxton Seconded by: Eoin McLennan-Murray and agreed by all members present.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for presenting the report in a format that is easier to understand and said that this was much appreciated.

## **6. Membership Report - Harry Brett**

Harry mentioned that we lost an overall total of 4 members since the 2020 AGM.

At the AGM in November 2020 there were 403 members.  
At the AGM in October 2021 there were **399** members.

In that time there have been:

10 New Members  
10 Deaths  
1 Resignation  
1 Non - Traceable  
2 Non - Payers

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

### MEMBERS

Paul Wailen  
John Dring  
Bernard Clarke  
Ken Alderson  
John Smith  
Roy Robson  
John Lewis  
Doug Wayman  
Chris Walker  
Dave Kennedy

### NON-MEMBERS

Phil Mortimore  
Derek Twiner  
Ifor Smout  
Barry Dempsey  
Claire Baines

John Pudney commented that he has been a member since his retirement in about 1988 and is amazed that so few of those retiring choose to become members, although it is always a joy to see so many names of those

he knew mentioned in the Newsletter. However, he continued, we don't seem to be attracting new members and wondered if this was because the service had changed so much. He stated that in his day the service was run by The Prisons' Board and when they were in charge there was a strong sense of comradeship and purpose. Some time ago he managed to visit HMP Parkhurst, where he began his career, and was surprised by the changes he saw. He also remarked that the committee must be disappointed that so few members attend the AGM, as he in particular looked forward to a bit of cut and thrust of debate. He also wondered where committee members for the future will come from. The sad fact is that we are all working toward our half hour appointment with the undertaker at some point.

Harry replied with various reasons why we are not recruiting, all of which we as a committee have discussed at length. He went on to state that the CSPA had lost 400 members in last 2 years.

The Chairman thanked Harry for his report.

## **7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance - Graham Smith.**

Graham Smith stated that two of our Committee members have direct involvement with the CSPA:

Harry Brett who is on the NEC and a Regional Representative for the North West Branch and Paul Laxton who is the Chair of the West Yorkshire Branch.

He continued by saying that the CSPAs' Newsletter, The Pensioner, is a very informative publication. In regard to the link between the RPGA and the CSPA, the status quo remains.

## **8. Newsletter - Paul Laxton**

Paul Laxton commented that the Spring Newsletter 2021 (issue 84) was exceptionally well produced by Graham Mumby-Croft who will also produce the Autumn Newsletter. The Chairman and AGM members expressed their thanks to Graham for stepping in whilst Paul was unavailable.

Paul stated that he will resume as editor of the newsletter following the autumn publication, subject to being re-elected onto the committee.

## **9. Website Update and email Register - Roger Outram.**

Unfortunately Roger was not able to attend the AGM although he had sent an email to all committee members prior to the meeting which stated: "I have nothing new to advance regarding the website. It is a living entity and its' next major change will come from the publication of the Autumn Newsletter. I have received the Membership List from Harry and it is ready to publish on the website, if the proposition is approved."

Paul Laxton asked that if anyone had any archive material, e.g. old newsletters or items etc, could they please send it to him and he would pass it on to Roger for inclusion on the website.

The following motion was proposed by Graham Smith:

The Committee suggests that a list of Members (without Contact details) be published on the website.

## **10. Resolution**

The following resolution was put to the members at the AGM:

The RPGA to publish the ongoing (as amended) list of Members names on the RPGA Website to enable contact options by the RPGA Membership Secretary.

Proposed by: Graham Smith Seconded by: Eoin McLellan-Murray and agreed by all members present.

## **11. Election of Officers**

Graham Smith asked if any of the members present were willing to stand for election to the committee. There were no takers to the request.

The Chairman then continued to ask the members if they were willing to re-elect those committee members whose term of office was drawing to a close. Those members are: Graham Mumby-Croft; Harry Brett and Paul Laxton. All three candidates were re-elected, unanimously, by all the members present. These re-elections to the committee are for a period of four years.

Graham Smith thanked everyone for their confidence in re-electing the committee members.

## **11. Date of next Annual General Meeting**

The date of the next AGM is yet to be fixed but it is hoped that it will take place in October 2022 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 made time to attend and the meeting closed at 14.00hrs.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:**

None recorded during this meeting.





