

# Retired Prison Governors Association

A section of The Prison Governors Association

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 11.00hrs via Zoom.

### Present:

Graham Smith (Chairman)  
Jan Thompson (Minutes)  
Ray London  
Harry Brett  
Paul Laxton  
Graham Mumby-Croft  
Roger Outram

### 1. Apologies.

None

### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 were approved. Proposed by: Ray London Seconded by: Graham Mumby-Croft. Agreed by all present.

### 3. Matters Arising and Action Points.

Reference	Action	Responsibility	Progress
6.6.20	Set up a working group to explore best practise for content of the website.	Roger Outram, Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft and Graham Smith	A Zoom meeting took place between Graham, Roger and Paul, mainly to discuss the newsletter. The website is up to date and continues to be a work in progress. <b>Ongoing</b>
5.11.20	To float the idea with the POA of the viability of having a joint RPOA and RPGA annual reunion and report the findings back to the committee	Harry Brett	Harry has spoken to RPOA Committee Member Pete Hancock but has had no further reply. It was agreed that this action was no longer viable and the AP to be discharged.
6.3.21	To discuss and ask for approval at the AGM for the inclusion of a list of RPGA members on the website.	Graham Smith	Completed.
9(i).3.21	To update our Rules and Constitution to incorporate the topics highlighted in the Chairmans' email of 12/04/21.	All Committee Members	A Zoom meeting to be organised to discuss any further changes to be made. <b>Ongoing</b>

9(ii).3.21	When agreed by the Committee, to send the updates to the PGA for ratification before presenting them at the RPGA AGM.	Ray London/Jan Thompson	Ongoing due to possible further changes.  New AP for GS.
4.7.21	To see if it is feasible to hold the AGM via Zoom at the same time as it is being held live. Roger Outram to speak to the hotel to explore the possibilities.	Roger Outram/ Graham Mumby-Croft	Completed  New AP for GS arising from this.

#### 4. Treasurers Report - Graham Mumby-Croft

Graham stated that the accounts had now been signed off by the auditors. The audited accounts show a Start Balance of £14,228.52 and an End Balance of £15,218.76 which showed a surplus for the year of £990.24. He continued to say that our finances remain in good health but pointed out that the cheque for the 2021 diaries (£624.00) has now been cashed by the PGA, thereby reducing the surplus for the year to £366.24, although this will not show up until the 2021/22 accounts.

Graham pointed out that inflation is beginning to now show. The cost of the spring newsletter has risen because of the increased cost of paper and postage charges. He also pointed out that the cost of producing future newsletters will obviously rise but thought that we may be able to absorb these increases for a while due to our healthy bank balance.

Graham and Harry have undertaken a review of the membership by comparing Harrys' list of members, including those who opt for a diary and those that do not, to see where there are any differences. This year the list is quite significant, with a total of 29 non payers when comparing Harrys' list to the list of actual payments received. However, this is countered by the fact that we have been receiving payments from 5 people who we had no idea who they were plus payments from 19 people who Harry has documented as either resigned, deceased or simply untraceable. Plus we have a list of 32 members who are paying at the wrong rate: some too much, some too little.

So, overall, from a membership of around 400, we have a list of 85 members who are either not paying/ should not be paying but are/or are paying too much or too little. Harry and Graham are in the process of trying to sort out this mess by email and writing to all of these people but the responses are poor and once again seem to be proving the point that our membership are very reluctant to respond to any attempt to make contact with them, even when it is to tell them they are paying too much for their subscriptions. The real problem, to which we really don't have an answer, is how to deal with those people from whom we are still receiving payment: some of whom we know are now deceased and others who have obviously moved away from the address that we have for them. We are receiving an income of about £280 per year from these redundant accounts.

Graham went on to say that due to the difficulties previously encountered in contacting members when subscription rates have increased, he thought it would be better if we could absorb the current expenditure increases rather than having to increase the membership subscription rate.

The Chairman thanked both Graham and Harry and said we appreciated their work in trying to collaborate the lists of paying and non-paying members.

#### 5. Membership Report - Harry Brett

Harry reported that since the 2021 AGM there has been: 11 New Members, 6 Deaths and 4 Resignations and stated that our current membership figure is 400.

The names of the deceased since our October 2021 AGM meeting are:

## MEMBERS:

Ron Smith  
Muriel Keast  
John Childs  
Gordon Tweedie  
Gerry Fagg (2018)  
Mike Watson-Jackson (2019)

## NON-MEMBERS:

Steve Metcalfe  
Bob Howard  
Linsey Arnold

Ray asked if we were getting many retirees joining the RPGA now that the actual retirement age has increased. Harry replied that there are an average of five people retire each month, of which approximately a third join the RPGA. He also mentioned that on retiring from the Prison Service many people continue to work, maybe for the private sector or other employers. He pointed out that the RPGA joining details are included in the PGA diary so all PGA members should be aware of this.

Harry and Graham M-C will agree a list of non-payers and take them off the membership list. These people will not receive an autumn newsletter, thereby prompting a possible response from them. This should be completed by the time of the next AGM in October.

## **6. Website Update - Roger Outram/Graham Mumby-Croft**

Roger reported that the website is healthy and up to date, including the spring newsletter, and remains a work in progress on an ongoing basis. He mentioned that he was impressed with what is on the web pages as this represents an archive of what the RPGA has been doing and feels that it is quite a useful document. He also suggested that he will write to regular contributors to thank them for their input and make them aware of the website and ask if they would send him any photographs/pictures for inclusion and also to ask if they know anyone else who would like to contribute.

## **7. Newsletter - Paul Laxton**

Paul explained that the spring edition of the newsletter was only 32 pages, a little lighter than usual, although the autumn edition tends to be bigger due to the inclusion of a certain amount of PGA conference matter. The latest edition is heavily dependent on the letters section and the Bob Duncan memoirs although Paul reported that he already has some contributions for the autumn edition, albeit it could be out of date by the time of publication. Ray mentioned that the newsletter looked very professional in its' new format and Paul agreed that he thought it was worth the extra expense.

## **8. RPGA and CSPA - Paul Laxton/Harry Brett**

Paul stated that he is still nominally the Chairman of the West Yorkshire branch as they have not been able to get up and running again in order to hold an AGM or elect a new committee.

Harry remains with the Manchester branch and mentioned that they held a live meeting and have elected a new chairperson although he said that the Stockport, Wirral and Liverpool branches were currently having difficulties, as were a lot of branches in the North West. He also attended the National Pensioners Bi-Annual Delegates Conference on behalf of the CSPA. He reported that there were approximately twelve resolutions put forward that actually became the policy of the pensioners conference. These were all pensioner oriented matters to do with social care; busses; keeping the Post Office card; digital exclusion etc. Harry asked if we wanted to include more of this type of content in our newsletter. Graham and Paul agreed that this would be a good idea.

## **9. Subsequent Committee Meeting Dates - All**

A Zoom meeting was agreed for Tuesday 24th May at 11.00hrs to discuss and amend the Rules and Constitution prior to ratifying them with the PGA.

The meeting closed at 12.30 hrs.

**Summary of Actions.**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
6.6.20	To continue to explore best practise for content of the website.	Roger Outram, Paul Laxton, Graham Mumby-Croft and Graham Smith Ongoing
9(i).3.21	To update our Rules and Constitution to incorporate the topics highlighted in the Chairmans' email of 12/04/21.	All Committee Members Ongoing A Zoom meeting to be organised to discuss any further changes to be made.
9(ii).3.21	When agreed by the Committee, to send the updates to the PGA for ratification before presenting them at the RPGA AGM.	Ray London/Jan Thompson Ongoing due to possible further changes.
3(i).4.22	To contact the PGA to find out when their next Rules and Constitution review will be.	Graham Smith
3(ii).4.22	To inform all members that they can access the AGM either in person or via Zoom.	Graham Smith