

# Retired Prison Governors Association

A section of The Prison Governors Association

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2026 at 11.00 hours via Zoom.**

### **Present:**

Graham Smith - Chair  
Jan Thompson - Minutes  
Paul Laxton  
Harry Brett  
Kevin Billson  
Barbara Treen  
Roger Outram  
Graham Mumby-Croft

### **1. Apologies.**

None

### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th October 2025 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed by: Graham Mumby-Croft

Seconded by: Roger Outram

and approved by all committee members present.

### **3. Action Points and Matters Arising.**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress</b>
6.10.22	To continue to contact previous newsletter contributors inviting/encouraging them to submit more articles for publication.	Roger Outram	No longer an action point as this has been incorporated into the front page of the website and will also be included in the newsletter.
6.10.22(i)	To invite new members to contribute to the newsletter by including a small paragraph in the newsletter.	Paul Laxton	Ongoing. Will be featured in the Editorial of the newsletter with effect from the spring 2026 edition.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Progress</b>
6.10.22(ii)	To invite new members to contribute to the newsletter by including a small paragraph in the newsletter.	Harry Brett	Completed
7.11.24	To attempt to speak about the RPGA to the PGA conference on Tuesday.	Harry Brett	Completed
5.10.25	To ask James Bryant and the NEC about allowing us to put a bulletin out about the RPGA on their system.	Kevin Billson	Completed
6.10.25	To contact James Bryant to edit the PGA website accordingly to include a short piece about the RPGA and a link to our website.	Kevin Billson	Completed
7.10.25	To speak together about co-editing the newsletter.	Barbara Treen/Paul Laxton	Completed: BT will become the Assistant Editor of the newsletter.

#### **4. Treasurers Report - GMC**

Extracts from Grahams' written report for the committee meeting are reproduced as follows:

The Auditors have now signed off the accounts and the good news this year is that there have not been any problems with the Barclays account at all and everything has ticked along very nicely. Both Kevin and Jan have access to the account online and in the event that I was unable to fulfil my duties as treasurer, the association would still be able to function as normal financially.

At the end of the year, working in conjunction with Kevin and Roger, we are in the process of undertaking the annual reconciliation process to match the list of paying members for 2025 to the membership list. Unfortunately despite keeping meticulous records we still have a list on members who have not paid, and people we know who have died, still paying.

Sadly there are some difficult stories behind some of these. For example: I noticed that I had received a payment from Jim Blakey for 2025 knowing full well that as I conducted his funeral service in 2024 there must be something wrong. The family did not want a refund so I have donated the overpayment

from Jim to the charity from his funeral - Asthma and Lung charity.

Overall we have fewer anomalies than in previous years but the bad news is that some of them are the same payments with no member that we have received in the past and are repeat ones from previous years. Of the members that we had queries with, 4 were on the email list and 4 were not. Those who were on the email list have all been sorted, however I wrote to the 4 members for who we had no email details. At the time of writing I have not received a reply from any of them. If I have not received anything by the time of our committee meeting then I suggest that we remove them from our distribution list and see if it elicits a response when they do not receive their newsletter.

The headline figures for the accounts for 2025 are as follows:

The reasonably healthy surplus in 2024 of £693.30 has, for 2025, become a surplus of £1452.36 - an improvement of £759.06 year-on-year and an improvement of £2012.32 over the 2023 figure, when we had a deficit of £559.96. This is despite our income from subscriptions dropping for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, this time by £374 on the year.

This improvement in our finances is almost entirely due to the fact that our decision to reduce the print run of the Newsletter and to offer an emailed version has paid dividend with the cost of the newsletter reduced considerably. We also manage the association very effectively as we incur hardly any T&S attending meetings since we dropped out of the Pensioners alliance and went online for our committee meetings. Our running costs in 2025 reduced by £1133.06 over 2024.

At the beginning of the year the bank account stood at £15,628.07 and at the end of 2025 it stood at £17,080.43 With this in mind I see no need for an increase in basic subs for 2026 or possibly 2027. (Note: As of today's meeting the current balance is £18793.63, although the cost of the Spring newsletter is yet to be deducted from this figure)

A very recent event which has a potential to impact on our finances is the situation with the PGA and the issue of diaries. If, as it seems, the PGA do cease to offer a diary as a perk of membership then we will of course have to withdraw the benefit for our members as well. This in turn means that we will need to require those members who currently take a diary, and pay the additional £7/year, will need to revise their Standing Order at their banks to a revised rate of £13/year. This will cost us approximately £700/year in income. We will of course save about £250/year in postage. So, all-in-all the PGA decision to cease to provide diaries, if confirmed, will cost us about £450/year

in net income.

Another issue to discuss is that of donations to charity when a member dies. (See Agenda Item 9ii: Any Other Business).

You will note that in 2025 we only made donations of £50 to charity and that was a single payment in Bob Duncan's name, decided to recognise Bob's long service. The reality is that we are often not informed when a member dies until some time after the event, if at all. For a number of years now it has only been the annual reconciliation of subscriptions received against the membership list that has revealed a difference that often turns out to be because members have died within the years and we have not been informed. This in turn means that we have no information on funeral arrangements or any wishes regarding a charity donation, and it is very difficult to raise that issue with family when some time has already passed. Add to that the fact that even when we are informed of someone's death and the funeral arrangements, we do not always get any information regarding a charity donation.

Interestingly one member who replied to Harry's email regarding the PGA discussion on diaries suggested that rather than reduce his subscription he would be happy to leave it at the full rate and give the extra to charity. This has led me to think about how we could do things in a better way and I believe that rather than give a small individual donation to charity we should consider making a single annual donation to charity in memory of all our members who die in the year. As you are aware, at their annual conference the PGA traditionally nominates a charity for which they raise money through donations, raffles and a variety of other means. As the PGA are good enough to allow us to piggyback our AGM on to the back of their conference it seems to me that an ideal charity for us to donate to, would be their chosen charity. Something for discussion and possibly a resolution to the AGM?

A discussion took place reference the charity donations and it was agreed that we would look to move to this arrangement. Roger commented that he would like to ensure that the PGA acknowledge this gesture and make our intention known during their annual conference. It was agreed that the treasurer would draft a motion for presentation to our membership at our AGM in October and, if the membership agreed, we could hand over our donation whilst at the AGM/Conference. **AP: Graham Mumby-Croft**

The chairman thanked Graham for his continued work as treasurer.

As always, the full Treasurers' Report and Accounts report will be printed in the Newsletter and also on the website.

## **5. Membership Report - KB**

Kevin produced his membership report for the meeting in which he noted that since his last report (Autumn 2025) our membership figure had decreased by eight. Our current membership figure is 332 of which we have 287 Full Paying members and 45 Associate (Non Paying) members. He added that recruiting new members continues to be very difficult, although since our AGM last October we have welcomed three new members - one full paying member (David Dyson) and two Associate members (Mary Tucker and Kath Preston). In addition, Maria Rys-Reuten has rejoined although sadly we have recorded the deaths of five members: Peter B Tucker; Les Dacombe; Margaret Middlemass; John Pudney and Jean Childs (Ass Member, wife of John Childs). Our deepest condolences are offered to family and friends of all former colleagues who have sadly passed away this year.

We also had four resignations (Members Alan Brown and Bill Preston and Associate Members Ruth Nolan and Daphne Smith).

It would appear that we have five subscriptions being paid but we don't have any contact details for these people. If anyone knows the contact details for the following members please could they contact Kevin or Graham Mumby-Croft: P K Garrard, E Lewis, J Lockerbie, Susan James and Margaret Tee.

Also, five members are to be removed from the members list as they are not paying their subscription and we are unable to contact them.

Kevin concluded by saying that he will be preparing a short article for inclusion in the PGA bulletin to remind any Governor grade due for retirement soon of who the RPGA are and what we can offer. As they did last year, Harry and Kevin are hoping to be given the opportunity to address the PGA Conference again this year to promote the RPGA.

## **6. Website Update - RO**

Roger said that the website was up to date and averaging three visits per day. He is intending to liven the front page up and expressed his thoughts that in ten years from now the archive will be a very interesting document for all. In regard to correspondence, Roger said that two people had promised an article but nothing was forthcoming as yet.

## **7. Newsletter - PL**

Paul said he had agreed with Barbara that she would take the title of Assistant Editor, taking on proofreading duties and giving advice in regard to potentially problematic content. Only one item in this issue needed to be edited for this reason. He continued by saying that the appeal for contributions had been successful and, as a result, there would be a 36-page Spring edition of the newsletter which members should find interesting given the variety of material. He added that a further appeal for content will form part of the editorial.

## **8. CSPA - KB**

### Update on Capita Transition

The transition to Capita from MyCSP in December did not go well and this has been widely publicised across various media outlets and questions have been raised in the House of Commons. CSPA phones have also been very busy as members and non-members experienced ongoing issues with Capita and their pensions. This has taken up the bulk of CSPA Head Office staff time through January and much of February. The situation has been fast moving with developments by the day. CSPA priorities have been:

- Helping members in need of assistance due to the non-receipt of their pension.
- Raising the CSPA profile by meeting media demands for comment.
- Seeking acknowledgement from Capita of the hard work we've done to help resolve this mess and supporting CS pensioners.
- Using this situation to encourage those that we have helped to join the CSPA if they are not already members.
- Pushing for some form of compensation scheme for those most badly affected by this.

CSPA Head Office team have been meeting online weekly with Cabinet Office to keep on top of this work.

### Organisation & Recruitment Report

Between the 1st November and 31st January the CSPA recruited 330 new members (168 in January alone, which is a return to pre-covid recruitment rates). Over the same period 544 members were lost, of which 352 had passed away. This is likely to continue to be the trend until the rate of newly recruited recently retired members brings the median age of CSPA members down from the current 80 years of age!

### Financial Report

The CSPA National Treasurer budgeted for a gross loss of £18,810 in 2025 whereas the actual outturn was a gross loss of £30,768 and a net loss of £7,918. The difference is due to a good return on the Aberdeen investment, which gained £23,853 on revaluation. The original investment of £380,000 was valued as £478,669 on 31 December 2025.

Expenditure is largely under control, with significant cost savings in production of the Pensioner magazine and the AGM.

### Consultation on Incorporation Working Group

A consultation process on potential incorporation for the CSPA is underway with preparatory work taking place. The whole process is expected to cost in the region of £30k and includes a series of regional consultation meetings plus a survey of all member's opinions on the matter. (Midlands meeting along with SW & Wessex Regions will be on the 16th of April 2026 at Reading Abbey Baptist Church 11am – 3pm).

## Research & Surveys

### Mandatory eyesight tests

Over 400 members have completed the survey (attached to GC 982) so far on the potential introduction of mandatory eye test for drivers over 70. The results are to be published early March (27th Feb deadline for survey completion). Most respondents so far are in support of Mandatory Eye Tests and seem to be of the view that 70 is as good an age as any to start. A significant proportion however are of the opinion that eye tests should take place for all age groups.

## Later Life Ambitions (LLA)

The LLA partners met for their usual quarterly meeting on the 10th of December 2025. The meeting included a review of the work done in 2025, including the media coverage achieved around the Budget for Later Life in the Autumn and a look forward at the LLA Campaigns Plan for 2026.

The Retired Members Branch of the Prison Officers Association (POA) has now agreed to becoming affiliated with LLA as an Associate Supporter after much discussion between the LLA partners about how LLA might best garner support for its campaigns from like-minded organisations. We look forward to our meeting with representatives from the POA Retired Members in due course.

## Women's State Pension (WASPI Campaign)

Sally Tsoukaris, General Secretary of the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance and a spokesperson for Later Life Ambitions, said: "The Governments' decision to deny compensation for a second time will be a bitter blow to the many women who have already waited far too long for justice. While ministers insist the issue has been re-examined, the outcome once again ignores the PHSO's clear findings that women were let down by poor communication and inadequate notice."

CSPA members, along with other campaigning groups, are being encouraged to write to their MPs as part of a bid to achieve a million letters sent protesting the Government's position on this.

## Adult Social Care

Later Life Ambitions have been quoted on the issue of Adult Social Care in an article in the Daily Express dated 2nd January 2026 entitled; "Keir Starmer ordered to 'get a grip' as 6,000 Brits die waiting for social care". It comes after an inquiry by MPs found 3.5 million adults are being denied the care they need, "leading to lives led at the bare minimum rather than to their fullest" after successive governments failed to act.

Eamonn Donaghy, spokesperson for campaigners Later Life Ambitions, said: "Reform of the social care system is desperately overdue given millions of older people don't know how they will be cared for in old age. Delayed discharges are not a hospital problem alone - they are a symptom of a social care system that has been allowed to fray for far too long"

### **9. Any Other Business**

9(i) Proposed changes to RPGA Rule 10 - KB

Kevin circulated his proposal for an addition to Rule 10 as follows:

#### **RPGA Rules & Constitution: Proposed Addition Of Rule 10 ( c )**

Assistance as described in Rule 3 cannot normally be provided by the RPGA for events taking place during a member's career within the Prison Service. However, the PGA may provide limited support to RPGA members should events come to light in a reasonable time after retirement. To qualify, the member must have been a fully paid-up member of the PGA at the time the events took place and when they retired and must currently be a fully paid-up member of the RPGA.

Kevin explained that this had come about when James Bryant contacted him and commented that we may attract more retiring Governor grades to join the RPGA if they thought we could point them in the right direction, if required. Graham Smith asked if there was any risk attached to this but Kevin didn't think that was the case. It was agreed to take this forward to the membership at the AGM. **AP Kevin to draft a resolution for the AGM**

9(ii) Donations made to charity on behalf of deceased members - G M-C

Graham covered this in his Treasurers Report.

9(iii) Date and venue for the AGM 2026 - G M-C

Graham said that we would be able to hold our AGM at the same venue being used by the PGA for their Conference, therefore the date of our 2026 AGM

will be Monday 12th October at 13.00hrs (time to be confirmed nearer the time) at the Eastwood Hall Hotel, Eastwood, Nottingham.

### **10. Subsequent Committee Meeting Date - All**

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday 12th October 2026 at 11.00hrs at Eastwood Hall Hotel, Eastwood, Nottingham.

The meeting closed at 12.00 hours.

### **Summary of Actions.**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
6.10.22(i)	To invite new members to contribute to the newsletter by including a small paragraph in the newsletter, possibly in the editorial.	Paul Laxton
9(i).3.26	To draft a resolution for the AGM to make an addition to Rule 10.	Kevin Billson
9(ii).3.26	To draft a motion for presentation to our membership at our AGM in October reference donations to charity when a member dies.	Graham Mumby-Croft