

# 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**

Jan Thompson

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## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Castle Donnington, on Monday 9th October 2023 at 13.30hrs and via Zoom.**

The RPGA Chairman, Graham Smith, welcomed all present to this years' Annual General Meeting.

### **1. Present:**

#### Committee:

Graham Smith (Chairman)

Jan Thompson (Minutes)

Paul Laxton

Graham Mumby-Croft

Kevin Billson

#### Members:

None present

#### Via Zoom:

Louise Cannon

### **2. Apologies:**

Apologies notified to the Secretary from:

Harry Brett

Roger Outram

Dave Simons

John Pudney

Barbara Treen

Iain Windebank

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2022.**

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

Proposed by: Paul Laxton

Seconded by: Graham Mumby-Croft

#### 4. Matters arising

Reference	Action	Responsibility	Progress
11.(i).10.22	To email the approved Rules and Constitution to all Committee Members.	Jan Thompson	Completed
11.(ii). 10.22	To publish the new, approved Rules and Constitution on the RPGA website.	Roger Outram	Completed
12.10.22	To look at the membership list for recommendations for future committee members and send any names to the chairman.	All Members	Ongoing To be moved to the RPGA Committee Meeting rather than the AGM

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

The Treasurer started by bringing the following to the members' attention:

Please be aware that these are the accounts for the 2022 financial year which finished on the 31st December 2022, so they are already 9-months old. This is done in order to fall in line with the PGA who will be reporting their financial report for the same period at their Annual Conference which is currently being held here at the hotel.

The Headline figures for the year ending December 2022 were:

Total Income for the year: £5,548.00 (Deficit of £667.07 from 2021)

Total Expenditure: £5,224.83 (Increase of £470.07 from 2021)

Surplus of income over expenditure: £323.17 (Decrease of £667.07 from 2021)

Cash Balance at year end: **£15,541.93**

Graham stated that the end of year figure shows a healthy balance in the bank and said that if we were to receive no income at all, based on what we spend at current prices, we could still operate for about two to three years using this buffer without having to increase the subscription rate with the exception of those members who receive a diary (124) who may have to see an increase in subscription rate if the cost of the diary plus postage goes over £20 which would not cover the cost. This is being monitored so that non-diary receiving members are not subsidising those who do receive a diary.

Graham continued by saying that our costs this year had increased by £470.07 which was mainly due to inflation biting into everything. He believes that we have trimmed the cost of running the association as low as we can get them due to the introduction of Zoom Committee meetings, which have been very useful. Therefore only the October Committee meeting/AGM has cost implications. The Zoom subscription is approximately £108 per year and this figure is lower than the cost of travel and subsistence for the committee members to attend one meeting elsewhere.

The treasurers report will be published in the autumn newsletter and he is happy to answer any queries from members.

The Chairman thanked Graham and said we appreciated his work in the preparation of the accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Paul Laxton, seconded by Jan Thompson and accepted by all members present.

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

Unfortunately Harry was unable to attend the AGM but sent his report as follows:

At the AGM in October 2022 there were 398 members.

At the AGM in October 2023 there were 376 members.

This represents a loss of 22 members during the year, broken down as shown below:

9 New Members

12 Deaths

13 Resignation

6 Non-Traceable

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

### **MEMBERS**

Brian Emes  
Dennis Sutton  
John Rumball  
Bill Martin  
Colin Stewkesbury  
David Hedley  
Royston Clarke  
Neville Joseph OBE  
Daphne Jones  
Martin Kealey  
Steve Goddard  
Grenville Barnard

### **NON-MEMBERS**

Gerry Adams  
Merrion Williams  
Ron Oliver  
Terry Saunders  
Jack Atherton  
Steve Hyams  
Gareth Hadley  
Stuart Terry  
David Rodden

N.B. The committee were informed of the death of another member, John Dovell, (September 2023) after Harry had submitted his membership report.

## **7. Civil Service Pensioners Alliance - Paul Laxton/Harry Brett.**

Paul stated that it was unfortunate that Harry was not at the meeting as he is on the NEC of the CSPA and therefore has the inside information that Paul doesn't have.

Paul continued to say that the CSPA is suffering from the same problems as many other voluntary organisations. Membership figures are falling and the number of inactive groups has increased. In fact, there are at least 60 branches or groups that are now in mothballs. The West Yorkshire group, of which Paul is the chair, are finding difficulty in filling committee positions and currently has no secretary so Paul is doubling up as Chair and Secretary. He emphasised that it is important to continue to let people know that we still have a link with the CSPA and encourage members to join them, as they have specialist knowledge if our members have any problems with pensions etc.

Paul thought that the forthcoming CSPA AGM could be quite lively but nothing that affects the RPGA. The chairman asked if there was anything new in regard to the triple lock to which Paul responded that he hadn't heard anything but believed that any government that tried to change the triple lock before the next general election will pay the price at the polls!

Graham thanked Paul for the update.

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

Paul stated that due to the decline in membership figures, he is going to cut back the print copies from 420 to 400 so we don't have too many spare copies. The Autumn edition of the newsletter is currently a guaranteed 48 pages, although it could be as many as 52 pages due to the inclusion of any interesting or relevant content from the 2023 PGA Conference and Paul asked the treasurer if that would be in keeping with the budget, to which the treasurer agreed that it would. He added that he was very pleased with the content of the autumn issue as it is very varied and includes content from new contributors as well as the regulars. Added to the fact that we use good quality paper and colour photographs, Paul said that he hoped members would enjoy reading it.

Member Louise Cannon commented that for cost conscious reasons some members may prefer to receive the newsletter via email, adding that she would be happy to receive an email copy instead of a hard copy. She suggested that we ask the membership if they would prefer an email or printed copy of future newsletters. Graham M-C replied that it was a useful suggestion and that we had looked at this in the past and could certainly look at again. He continued that we have to take into consideration that, for data protection, the membership secretary Harry Brett holds the membership list and when he sends stuff out he does so from his own personal account and if he were to send the newsletter out to people as an attachment that he may not have enough band width to do that. We would need to look at the technical issues associated with this and maybe need to purchase an email account that gives us the band width. Graham also pointed out that as soon as the newsletter is out in print it becomes available on the website within 24 hours. Louise continued that maybe members could still indicate if they would like to receive a printed copy and if not, maybe Harry could send out a reminder that the newsletter was published and available on the website. **Action Point:** Committee to discuss the possibility of reassessing the debate of the printed copy of the newsletter versus the website availability.

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

Unfortunately Roger was unable to attend the meeting but Graham M-C said that he had looked at the website and everything was up to date. Paul seconded this as he had also looked at it. The chairman thanked Roger for his attention to the website.

## **10. Any Other Business**

No-one declared any other business.

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

The date of the next AGM is provisionally set for Monday 7th October 2024, 13.30 hours, at Delta Hotels Nottingham Belfry but this is to be confirmed at a later date.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and said how nice it was to have Louise joining us on Zoom. The meeting closed at 14.00hrs.

### **SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
8.10.23	To discuss the possibility of reassessing the debate of the printed copy of the newsletter versus the website availability.	All Committee Members

