

Retired Prison Governors Association

A section of The Prison Governors Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Harry Brett's home in Manchester at 1100hrs Tuesday 20th October 2015.

Present:

Graham Smith (Chairman)
Ray London (Minutes)
Harry Brett
Dave Taylor
Paul Laxton
Alan Hall
Graham Mumby-Croft

1 Apologies.

Bob Duncan, Jenny Adams-Young and Jan Thompson.

Before the meeting started Graham Smith thanked Harry and his wife for hosting the meeting

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

There were no matters arising.

Proposed by Alan Hall, seconded by Harry Brett and agreed unanimously as a true record.

3 Previous Actions

Reference	Action	Responsibility	Progress
8i.10.14	Get a Social event organised in the Northwest	Dave Taylor	An email survey was conducted; there were only 6 replies, 4 of which came from Committee Members, consequently not viable.
9.10.14	Co ordinate an article for the Newsletter when the Political Parties have published their manifestos	Paul Laxton	Done

13.10.14	Contact Retired Police Groups to see what benefits they offer their members	Graham Smith	Defer to 2016 after discussions with CSLA
14iii.10.14	Contact Eoin McLennan-Murray to give a talk at the Reunion	Ray London	Change to Steve O'Connell
4i.3.15	Review the size of the Newsletter with a view to finding an optimum size for cost	Paul Laxton	Done for Autumn Newsletter - to be kept under constant review
4ii.3.15	Review the Associations Costs and inform Members at the AGM	Working Party of Graham Mumby-Croft, Ray London, Paul Laxton and Harry Brett.	Ongoing
10.3.15	Inform Roger Outram that Harry Brett will take over the email register	Mick Roebuck	Done by Harry Brett
11i.3.15	Contact the PGA to ascertain what, if any, assistance they can provide for former staff required to attend interviews with Investigation Teams	Graham Smith	To be discussed at this meeting as agenda item 11
11ii.3.15	Write an article for the Autumn Newsletter regarding Legal Insurance.	Ray London	Done by Jenny Adams-Young and published in Autumn Newsletter
13.3.15	Arrange Speakers for AGM	Ray London and Graham Smith	Done

4 Treasurers Report.

Graham Mumby-Croft reported that there has been no out-goings this quarter due to the Newsletter being delayed. Next quarter will include the Newsletter as well as the Diaries and Postage. The prognosis is slightly better than last year, although we have not yet received an invoice from Newbold Revel regarding the AGM.

5 Membership Report.

Harry Brett distributed a summary of Membership changes since the last meeting, the AGM and subsequent to the autumn edition of the Newsletter. Membership now stands at 453.

6 Public Service Pensioners Council (PSPC) and Civil Service Pensioners Alliance (CSLA)

There has been no meeting of the PSPC since May 2015. Alan Hall had reviewed that meeting at the AGM in June.

Graham Smith and a couple of other committee members had met with Don Makepeace and Ralph Groves from the CSLA to discuss access to CSLA benefits. Essentially, the way forward would be for the RPGA to merge with the CSLA. This would mean that the RPGA would be a Group within the CSLA but we would still retain our autonomy.

The major problem would be that a substantial revision of the RPGA financial structure would be required. CSLA membership subscriptions are deducted from pension payments. An element of subscription for RPGA members would need to be collected separately. This would, by necessity, increase costs to individual members and could result in resignations. Other factors to consider are that the PGA would need to be aware and RPGA members would need to be consulted.

As the Benefits against Costs are so beneficial, the consensus of opinion amongst the committee was to proceed with the merger. To do this, and the timescale is very important, a small working party consisting of Graham Mumby-Croft, Ray London and Paul Laxton will lead. An article will need to be included in the March Newsletter, including a ballot slip. For this Ballot a neutral arbiter will need to be appointed.

ACTION: Working Party to prepare article for March Newsletter and Ballot of Membership.

To facilitate the return of ballot slips it was decided to move the March 2016 Committee Meeting back to 5th April 2016 and to invite Don Makepeace to attend. If the vote is in favour of merging a change to the Constitution will need to be put to members at the AGM. If that is accepted it will need to be ratified by the PGA at their AGM in October 2016.

7 Website Update

Harry Brett has submitted updates to Stuart Williamson.

8 Newsletter

A 44 page edition is due for publication during the last week of October 2015. Graham Smith noted thanks to Paul Laxton for his first edition.

9 E Mail Register

Harry Brett has created a restricted list of members who have notified him that they do not wish to receive the Twitter links.

Dave Taylor will cover when Harry is on holiday.

10 Committee Members

It was confirmed that Dave Taylor will deputise for Harry Brett in administering the email Register.

11 Historic Allegations

Jenny Adams-Young had written an article published in the recent Newsletter. Paul Laxton has discovered, subsequent to a discussion with the PGA Solicitor, that retired members need to make their own arrangements and are liable for any fees and costs.

12 Criteria for Guests at the AGM.

Graham Smith suggested that in future only members of the RPGA will be permitted to attend the AGM. He also suggested that we need to notify members by way of an article in the next edition of the Newsletter.

ACTION: Ray London to write an article outlining that only Members will be allowed in to the AGM.

13 Subsequent Committee Meeting and AGM Dates.

To facilitate a Meeting with the CSLA the date of the next meeting will be put back to 5th April 2016.

To keep costs down it was agreed that we should look to meet at a Prison in the Midlands. Harry Brett agreed to see if his son could arrange for us to meet at HMP Hewell. It was also agreed that attendees would be responsible for their own lunch.

The AGM and Reunion Day will be held at Newbold Revel on 16th June 2016.

Summary of Action

Reference	Action	Responsibility
6.10.15	Prepare article regarding merger with CSLA for March 2016 Newsletter	Graham Mumby-Croft, Ray London and Paul Laxton
12.10.15	Write article regarding only Members eligible to attend the AGM	Ray London
13.10.15	Contact HMP Hewell to see if we can hold our next meeting there.	Harry Brett