

TEESSIDE GROUP

Dear Member

The next meeting of our Group will take place on **Thursday the 8 September 2022** at 2pm at St. Mary's Centre, 82-90 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 2RW. We aim to finish by 3.30pm.

We will be discussing at the meeting the motions to be debated at the Annual General Meeting in Coventry in October. We anticipate that these will be published in the upcoming issue of The Pensioner which should have reached everyone by the time you receive this. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

I hope everyone has managed to cope reasonably well with the hot weather. We're all used to it when we go on holiday to Spain but it's a different proposition when we're not in holiday mode.

The biggest upcoming problem we all have to face is the cost of living crisis and in particular the increase in energy prices. In this regard I would like once again like to remind members about the Charity for Civil Servants (formerly the Civil Service Benevolent Fund). The Charity can offer former civil servants' advice, guidance, and financial support and help them meet the complex and evolving challenges that can befall anyone throughout their lives, from mental or physical health issues to managing money and debt, domestic violence and relationship breakdown to caring responsibilities and bereavement. For confidential support and advice call **0800 056 2424** Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. You can also go to their website.

You may know that the government have indicated their commitment to the triple lock for next year which should mean pensions should rise in April 2023 by the rate of inflation measured next month. The CSPA will do its best to ensure this promise is kept.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. If you have any problems do not hesitate to get in touch.

The agenda for the meeting is below, and the minutes of our June meeting are also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,
John Butler
Teesside Group Secretary

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AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of June Meeting.
4. Matters Arising.
5. Secretary's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Membership Report.
8. Regional NPC Report.
9. Discussion of Motions for the Annual Meeting.
10. Any Other Business.

Minutes of the Group Meeting held on the 9 June 2022 at Middlesbrough at 2pm

Present

Ken Bellamy, John Butler, David Barry, Christine Foxton, Marj Bellamy, Linda Fordy and Keith Yallop.

Apologies for absence

Jim Doherty and Betty Hocking.

Remarks from the Chair

Ken welcomed members to the meeting. Andy Aitchison our regional rep had sent his apologies for the meeting.

Minutes of the Group Meeting of 12th December 2019

This was our last ordinary meeting before the pandemic. The minutes were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising. Ken referred to the minutes of our last Committee meeting which had been held on 24th February 2020 which had not been formally cleared. These were agreed as a correct record.

Secretary's report

Andy Aitchison was organising the regional meeting at Darlington for the 7th July. David Luxton, CSPA Deputy General Secretary, would be in attendance. All the members present expressed an interest and it was agreed to forward these names to Andy.

John referred to the imminent retirement of Darlene Vendryes from her role at CSPA HQ. Many members commented on how invaluable her contribution to the Alliance and to the Group officers had been. She would be much missed. It was agreed to send Darlene a card and a £25 voucher from Group funds as an expression of our thanks and best wishes.

John also referenced the new travel insurance offer and the article which had appeared in The Pensioner. There was a brief discussion about this.

Treasurer's report

Christine reported that total funds of the Group amounted to £874.14p. Christine went on to say that a total of 44 members had contributed £202 to Group funds in the current year. All cheques issued had been cleared. The report was accepted.

Membership report

Keith reported we have lost another six members since our March 2022 AGM. Our membership now stands at 164. Of the six, two died and four resigned (two couples).

NPC report

Keith gave a lively account of the latest NPC meetings of what is clearly a very active group. Keith has been appointed regional treasurer.

Ken thanked all the officers for their reports on behalf of the meeting.

Other business

Members then spent some time debating a range of issues. These included the present health and care situation, the cost-of-living crisis, future pension increase provisions, and the continuing complications surrounding the Guaranteed Minimum Pension.

Ken then asked John to arrange a Zoom meeting particularly for those members unable to attend today. John agreed to arrange this after the Darlington meeting. Ken closed the meeting at 2-55pm.