



Teesside Group

NEXT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of our group will take place on **Thursday the 8th December** at 2pm at St. Mary's Centre 82-90 Corporation Road Middlesbrough TS1 2RW. We aim to finish by 3-30pm.

As we assembled for our last meeting we heard the news of Her Majesty the Queen's deteriorating health, and indeed she died that evening. Some of you will remember a time before the Queen's accession but there is no doubt that her reign dominated the second half of the twentieth century. As we celebrate the reign of a new monarch there is much for all of us to worry about whether it is our heating bills or the cost of the weekly shop.

It was against this backdrop that Keith Yallop and I were privileged to be your representatives at the CSPA Annual Meeting in October. This was the first in person meeting since 2019, and there was much to discuss. The dizzying spectacle of changing Prime Ministers and Chancellors makes political forecasting a difficult pastime but it is so important for us all. Membership of the CSPA continues to be essential to allowing pensioners' voices to be heard collectively.

The value of our pensions is key to this effort of course but so is the continuing concern about health and social care among many other issues discussed at the meeting. Our group's motion on health and social care was subsumed into a broadly similar motion from the Executive Council which once again reiterated our support for a national social care service. We promise on this and other concerns to do our best to make your views heard. A full report on the Coventry meeting will be carried in the next issue of the Pensioner-out soon!

Christmas is now very much in sight and I hope you have all made a start on your Christmas shopping, and that you are able to spend time with friends and family.

Don't forget that the members benefits scheme continues to be available at the CSPA website www.cspa.org.uk For members without internet access a leaflet is available from CSPA head office providing information on all of the benefits that can be accessed by telephone. Call 020 8688 8418 for a copy.

As for our meeting, I and the other officers very much hope you can come along. A warm welcome is assured as well as the customary tea, coffee and biscuits.

Yours sincerely

John Butler
Group Secretary

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of September Meeting-see below
4. Matters Arising
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Report
8. Regional NPC Report
9. Report from the AGM at Coventry
10. Any Other Business

Minutes of the Group Meeting held on the 8th September 2022 at Middlesbrough at 2pm.

Present

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

Apologies

Jim Doherty rang both Ken and John to extend apologies and send his best wishes to all.

Minutes of the Group Meeting of 9th June 2022

The minutes were taken as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report

John reported that he, Keith and David had attended the regional meeting at Darlington. Our regional rep Andy was there with the Deputy General Secretary, David Luxton. It had been a pleasure to meet colleagues from around the region face to face for the first time in three years.

John confirmed that Marion had now taken over from Darlene who had now retired from her role at HQ. It was Marion who had sent out the meeting notice to members.

John referred to the circulars from HQ since the last meeting. HQ were organising a reception at the House of Commons in November. They invited two Group members to attend. It was agreed that John could attend if he wished to.

Ken raised the issue of the sponsored representative to the Coventry meeting. Ken indicated that he was now unable to attend.

Treasurer's report

Christine reported that total funds of the Group amounted to £861.14p in the bank account and £25.47p was cash in hand. All cheques issued had been cleared. The report was accepted with the thanks of the meeting. Christine raised her concern that HQ were asking for bank transfers instead of payment by cheque. No such arrangement was in place and it went against the whole principle of requiring two signatories on cheques.

Membership report

Keith reported that we had lost a further three members bringing the total to 161.

NPC report

Keith continued in his role as regional Treasurer.

Agenda for the Coventry Annual Meeting.

Ken introduced the agenda booklet which had been distributed to all members as an insert in The Pensioner.

Andy Aitchison was the only nomination for the regional representative on the Executive and was therefore deemed elected as were all our other nominees for the various positions.

Keith drew attention to the number of constitutional amendments and the impact this might have on the ability of the meeting to get through all the business. Our motion had been subsumed into a composite motion from the executive which if passed would set the CSPA's policy as supporting a free national care service. This was regarded as very welcome.

Any Other Business

As requested, Ken referred to recent communications with David Barry regarding his recent severe health incident and his representation to the hospital in accord with their leaflet "Patient Experience" which invites appropriate comments on patient treatment. David had progressed and awaited further developments after initial acknowledgment.

David urged others to comment about their treatment experience to the hospital and added his real concerns regarding the current critical state of the NHS and need for urgent remedy.

Ken referred to the Group's motion to be discussed at the forthcoming national AGM which strongly calls on the Government to urgently remedy the major deficiencies in both health and social care services.

Ken closed the meeting at 3.05pm.