



MEETINGS ARE HELD

at CACSSA (Civil Service Club)
Tewkesbury Road Cheltenham
GL51 9SL starting at 10.00 for
10.30. Plenty of parking and
refreshments provided.

Chair: Alastair Goldie cspaglos@gmail.com 01452 417846

Secretary: Alastair Goldie as above

Treasurer: Ken Lovett lovett339@btinternet.com

Tel 01285 831748

Membership Secretary: Mrs Dorothy Bunting 10 Redgrove
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Committee Members: Maureen Smith

CSPA Gloucestershire Group AM Kenilworth

This is a brief summary of the CSPA AGM held on 12/13 October which I attended as your delegate.

It's a small world as the AGM was opened by the Mayor of Kenilworth Cllr Dr Samantha Loudon Cooke. It turns out that she is a lecturer at the University of Gloucestershire at the Oxstalls Campus very near to where I live.

The various reports were received and the 2021 report showed a decrease in membership from 52,401 to 49,596 a fall of 3028. This has meant a loss of £26,404 mainly due to loss of subscriptions. This will be remedied by an increase in subs from £3 per month to £4.00 per month.

There followed a presentation on **New CSPA** which hopefully will attract more members with new branding and a new website enabling people to join online. A strap line, always necessary these days, has been developed **CSPA-Protecting what you've earned**. It is also offering better communications, ways of attracting "younger" pensioners, increasing diversity, improving HQ working procedures and members benefits which includes a new Travel Insurance Scheme run by Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS) which should be launched this week. It is available on line at csis.co.uk/cspa or telephone 01622 766960 and quote cspa. New CSPA sounds good and is inspiring.

The AGM was chaired by the Vice Chair Linda Ridgers-Waite as the Chairman Don Makepeace was unwell. Linda was an excellent Chair and we have invited her to our own AGM in March 2023.

The Constitutional amendments were debated and all carried including our own on doing away with the within 10 years of retirement rule. They also included A15 on introducing a Code of Conduct. It struck me that not having had one for the last 70 years hardly justified one now but GDPR makes it necessary.

After these motions a presentation was made by the Charity for Civil Servants which can help in all sorts of ways including help with regular payments, for example, additional care at home. They also have therapists (bereavement and dementia) who will "chat" to members, an aspect of the Charity that I did not know about.

Motion A17 on the future of the Regional/Group structure was discussed at some length and on which I was instructed by our Group to vote against. When the Chair saw the length of those wishing to vote against the abandonment of Groups, the Mover was asked if the Motion could be remitted which it was. The Motion A19 was also remitted; this proposed alternate Zoom/Real AGMs. There obviously needs to be much more work on this and with a shiny new CSPA brand we should be thinking of more ways to support and may be even reopen Groups.

All the motions on pensions were carried, eg reinstatement of the triple-lock, increase energy costs, inflation etc. A30 on reduction of tax on fuel was narrowly carried with Gloucestershire voting against on the grounds that people should use other forms of more sustainable transport.

Motions on digital and financial exclusions were carried including Gloucestershire's A 33 on reverting to paper when the time comes when one can no longer handle IT.

On Health motions, particularly A41 on access to GPs it was stated that local groups could do more on this and not just rely on National to pursue it. Similarly with A42 (chiropractic and eye tests) local action might be more effective.

I was able to meet other Delegates and exchange ideas with them. They have similar problems to our own and recovering from the pandemic when fewer members are attending meetings. I also met all the new staff at HQ which makes life easier when contacting them. I was also able to thank David Humphreys who was retiring as our Regional Representative. No replacement has been forthcoming.

The speaker at the dinner was Sue Gray, late of the "Partygate" investigation. She has had a remarkable career in the Civil Service starting as an AA and ending as a permanent Secretary. Throughout her career and especially in the dreadful "partygate" scandal, she remained true to the high standards of the Civil Service relying on facts and evidence where necessary.

It was my first AGM for 4 years and I am pleased to say it was a worthwhile gathering and this time did not reflect the feeling of "greed" by pensioners for wanting special facilities and support at every opportunity. Perhaps generational awareness played a part in this.

A reminder that the next group meeting is on the Thursday 1 December when the speaker will be Jack Boskett a professional photographer who has some incredible photos including everything from railways to royalty. You are welcome to bring your friends along to this meeting.

Alastair Goldie Chairman Gloucestershire Group CSPA