



SCARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP

Civil Service Pensioners Alliance Scarborough and District Group Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 24 April 2023 in Westborough Church Scarborough

1. Welcome: Joyce I'Anson chaired the meeting and welcomed 7 members including 3 new members and guest speaker Andy Aitchison CSPA Regional Representative. The Group did a round the room self-introduction.
2. Apologies: Richard Moore, Jocelyn Lovett, Hazel Bowes, Doug Eves and Karen McCabe.
3. A moment of silence was held to remember Karen McCabe's husband Paul who died recently.
4. Minutes of AGM held on 25 April 2022: Agreed. Proposed by Elaine Taylor, seconded by James Howie.
5. Matters arising: None.
6. Chairman's Report: Joyce said there were 4 Committee and 4 Group meetings held during the year and each one well attended. Christmas lunch was a great success as usual. Ray's appropriately worded and decorative place cards never fail to raise a few chuckles. Thank you, Ray, for those and for auditing the Group's accounts. Joyce went on to thank James Howie for keeping the books and our money safe and for representing the Group at the Regional meetings and the Alliance's AGM. Joyce herself joined the Regional Meeting on zoom.

She went on to thank Sheena O'Connell for keeping the records, doing the Minutes, preparing entries for the Pensioner Magazine and refreshments at Group Meetings. Joyce also thanked Members for their continued support and attendance at meetings. Without them the Group would not continue.
7. Treasurer's Report, Accounts and acceptance of Accounts:
The Group started the year with £475.16 in the Bank and £96.79 in cash. Expenditure for the year was £176.54 and income from subscriptions and donations was £150. Balances at year end were £511.86 in the Bank and £33.55 in cash. The Accounts had been audited and will be submitted to CSPA HQ.

The funds available were more than sufficient to cover expected annual outlay so the Committee decided that local Group subscriptions would be suspended for 2023.

8. Record Secretary's Report: Very little action on the records front, two members resigned membership and two change of addresses. HQ are working on the Membership lists so unable to provide an up to date one.

9 Elections: No nominations have been received. The following appointments were made unopposed:-

Joyce I'Anson - Chair

James Howie - Treasurer

Sheena O'Connell - Records and Minutes Secretary, Pensioner publicity

Richard Kilsby - Committee Member

Ray Pollin - Auditor.

10 and 13. AOB and Andy's presentation: he said that the CSPA, alongside other pensioner groups, was working hard on the issues of concern to and raised by its Members.

a) CSPA AGM was a great success and Sue Gray the Speaker very interesting.

b) CSPA 70th anniversary celebrations at the House of Commons were well attended and several MPs called in to say "hello".

c) Triple Lock, the debate continues but the State Pension has been increased by 10.1% based on CPI in September. The gap between the old-style pension and the new is increasing considerably. The qualifying age will increase to 67 in 2026 and 68 in 2035.

d) Cost of living crisis – food, energy, transport, cars fuel, broadband and mobile phone costs which are increased by CPI+ despite having a contract for certain charges etc. Government will continue to give additional help to those in receipt of certain benefits. The energy cap has been fixed at £3000 till 2024 and pensioners will continue to receive £300 energy benefit in November.

e) Widows Pension for life is still a work in progress. Any problems with this should be referred to Christine Haswell at HQ.

f) Health and Social Care remain works in progress.

f) Regional and Group structure: there will be no changes, but additional support will be given where there is no functioning local Group. A pilot scheme is running in SW whereby mini meetings are held in various towns.

g) Digital exclusion continues apace in all quarters of life and without any prior notification e.g. MyCSP. Anyone wanting a hard copy should contact MyCSP>

h) Public transport, in particular the winding down of bus routes, the NPC is battling on this front.

i) CSPA Profile and Branding, much work being done on this front, and it is reaping rewards. Feedback on the website is good. There are approximately 42000 members.

j) Personal Allowance: the increase in the State Pension has totally cancelled

this for many resulting in taxation of part of the pension and putting some into higher tax rate. The Group may consider a Motion to be put forward at the AGM.

k) Lisa Ray, the General Secretary will be leaving at the end of May. A recruitment drive will be held inviting internal and external candidates. Should anyone know of a suitable candidate(s), please let HQ know after seeking permission of the individual.

l) NEC membership number will be increased from 3 to 5 with 2 posts being reserved for women. Consideration is being given to creating a post at HQ for database problems.

12. Dates of Next Meetings:

Committee 19 June

Group 26 June - "18 September" - 25 September

Committee meetings start at 1400 and are held in Joyce's house. Group meetings start at 1100 and are held in the **Belle Vue Room, Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough, YO11 1TS**. Turn left out of the Station and the Church is on your right. There is a car park at the Church. Entrance is via the lower door from the car park. There is usually a CSPA sign on the door. Carry straight on from the door, turn left at the T junction of corridors, the meeting room is at the end of that corridor.

Some of the Group retired to the Three Jolly Sailors pub in Burniston for a well-earned lunch!

Sheena O'Connell

Records Secretary

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April 2023

