



Teesside Group

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING 2025

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Teesside Group will be held on Thursday 20th March 2025 at the Costa Café, Morrisons car park, Newmarket Avenue, Teesside Park TS17 7BP at 2pm. We aim to finish by 3.30 pm.

If you want to put forward items for discussion at the AGM or if you want to nominate someone for an elected position at Group and/or at National level, please put them in writing to reach me at the address on this notice by the 3rd March 2025. This also applies to any motions for submission to the national Annual General Meeting in October. The Agenda for the AGM is below.

Once again, we are not asking for a contribution to our local group funds this year. We have enough on hand to cover the group's short to medium term needs.

The key issue the group is still facing is the decline in numbers attending our meetings since the pandemic. We appreciate that most members are happy with their membership and the knowledge that the CSPA continues to defend their pensions and to campaign on key issues. And also of course the Alliance is there for support if any issues arise regarding payment of individual pensions. We do though still have many members in the TS area. However, we need people to do the key jobs and keep the show on the road. It would be nice to see some new faces. We really do need help to keep the group going.

Now for some recent news. On Tuesday 5th February, Minister for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms MP (Lab, East Ham), delivered a statement on the draft Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2025, which was approved:

The draft Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2025 will increase relevant state pension rates by 4.1%, in line with the growth in average earnings in the year to May to July 2024.

It will increase most other benefit rates by 1.7%, in line with the rise in the consumer prices index in the year to September 2024.

The Government's commitment to the triple lock means that the basic and full rate of the new state pension will be uprated by whichever is highest out of the growth in earnings, the growth in prices, or 2.5%.

This will rise to 4.1% for 2025-26.

From April this year, the basic state pension will increase from £169.50 per week to £176.45, and the full rate of the new state pension will increase from £221.20 to £230.25.

The Government says it is fully committed to maintaining the pension triple lock.

Of course, the CSPA was disappointed in its campaign to save the winter fuel payments. Quite a blow.

Civil Service Pensions will rise by only 1.7% from 7 April this year, following the ONS announcement of the September increase in the Consumers Prices Index (CPI). This will be the lowest year on year increase for over 4 years.

Civil Service pension increases are determined each year by the September CPI figure, underpinned by legislation in the Social Security Act 1975 that links the increase to Social Security benefit increases that are linked to the CPI measurement of inflation. Prior to 2011 the link was with the higher Retail Prices Index, which is no longer recognised as “an appropriate measure of inflation”. So there we are.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting if possible, but if not, we extend our good wishes and appreciation for your continued support. We will have tea, coffee and biscuits so please feel free to drop in early for a chat.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN BUTLER

Group Secretary.

AGENDA FOR 28th AGM on 20th March 2025

- **Welcome from the Chair**
- **Apologies for absence**
- **Minutes of 2024 AGM**
- **Matters arising**
- **Annual Report**
- **Financial Report and Financial Statement to 31 December 2024**
- **Membership Report**
- **Election of Group Officers, Committee members, Auditor and delegate to National AGM**
- **Nominations to the National Executive Council and other National posts (if any)**
- **Motions and any other business**

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Teesside Group held on Thursday 14th March 2024 at St Mary's Centre, 82 – 90 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough at 2pm.

Present

John Butler, Christine Foxton, Keith Yallop, and David Barry.

Apologies

Betty Hocking, Marjorie Bellamy and Ken Bellamy.

Welcome

The meeting opened with John welcoming the members to the AGM.

Minutes of the AGM 2023

These were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Annual Report

John Butler gave a verbal report. John said the main thing from his point of view was that the group was still active and providing a service to members. He was distributing group circulars electronically to those members who provided email details. John once again drew attention to the decline in the numbers attending the meetings. He had addressed this issue in the meeting notice.

Some business matters required to be dealt with at this meeting. The first was the election of a new national vice chair. Don Makepeace had resigned through ill health. There were two candidates. After some discussion it was agreed that the Group's vote would be cast for Les Calder.

Andy Aitchison had recently organised a zoom meeting for regional members which Keith and John had attended. There had been a broad discussion on a range of issues facing the CSPA. The face to face regional meeting would be at Darlington on the 6th June. Members present indicated they may wish to attend.

The meeting thanked John for his report.

Financial report

Christine Foxton had provided a balance sheet and report for the year up to 31 December 2023, showing items of income and expenditure. The report had been audited by Marjorie.

A total of 36 members had contributed £221 to Group funds. Added to the brought forward balance on 01/01/2023 of £874.61 this gave a total of £1005.61. Expenditure amounted to £63 leaving a bank balance of £942.61.

Following acceptance at this AGM a copy of the report would be forwarded to HQ Treasurer Mike Sparham.

In the current year 14 members have contributed £41. The latest statement this year showed a balance of £925.14 with cash in hand of £33.47 this left a total of £958.61.

The meeting approved the £25 annual subscription to the NPC.

This marked the end of Christine's work as Treasurer which she had done tirelessly for more years than anyone could remember. The meeting passed a vote of thanks for her unstinting work as Treasurer.

Membership Secretary's report

Keith reported the way in which we would be notified of membership figures by HQ was changing. The most recent figure was 136 members.

NPC Report

Keith was continuing to attend meetings on our behalf and continuing to serve as Treasurer. A new secretary had been elected Steve MacFadden and the regional NPC continued to be financially sound.

Election of Group Officers and Committee members.

John reported that he had received no nominations from the general membership, the officers themselves had proposed that John be Chairman and Secretary and Keith as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. These being the only nominations they were declared elected. Also elected

were committee members David Barry and Christine Foxton. John Butler was nominated as national AGM Delegate. Keith Yallop was elected as NPC delegate. The group accepted the nominations of Linda Ridgers-Waite as Chair of the Alliance, Les Calder as Deputy Chair and Les Priestley as an EC member. Keith Yallop was nominated for the Standing Orders Committee and Andy Aitchison as regional Executive Committee representative. It was agreed to leave the post of auditor vacant for the time being.

It was further resolved that Keith Yallop as our new Treasurer should be formally responsible for the care of the group's monies and in particular the account at Barclays and that the necessary steps be taken for Keith's appointment as an additional authorised signatory on that account.

Ken Bellamy had indicated his wish to step down as chairman through ill health. After a lifetime of sterling service both as a civil servant and a trade unionist, Ken had played a leading part in the foundation of the group upon his retirement. He had served as chair from the outset and had been the beating heart of the group. The members recorded a vote of thanks for his extraordinary work over so many years and also wished him a speedy recovery.

Keith proposed that Ken be appointed as Group Honorary President. This was agreed by the meeting.

Motions

No motions for debate at the national AGM had been received this year and Keith proposed that on this occasion we should leave it at that.

Any Other Business

There was no other business and John closed the meeting at 3-20pm.