

CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group AGM
Meeting on February 26th 2025 at Chapel field Road Methodist Church.

- 1 Chair Richard West opened the meeting and welcomed 16 members from Norfolk and special welcome to a new lady from Suffolk. He introduced Sally Tsoukaris, CSPA General Secretary who is our speaker.
We had apologies from 6 members.
 - 2 The minutes of the meetings on 28th February 2024 and 27th November 2024 were **agreed unanimously**
 - 3 There were no matters arising.
 - 4 Secretary's report - Tim gave us some details from the latest Group Circular and that the Pensioner was being recorded onto memory sticks for those who required the spoken word. The CSPA are still pressing for alternatives to digital notices, so people are not digitally excluded. He confirmed that the group was running according to CSPA ruling. Richard thanked Tim for his continuing work and the refreshments.
 - 5 Treasurers report – Fred referred to the Statement of Accounts and Balance sheet for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2024. He stated that the loss of £294.80, compares to the profit of £246.05 for the previous year. The main contributory factor for this loss is the fall in Income from Subscriptions and Donations of £356. Fortunately, the funds are sufficiently healthy to stand this loss. However, in the long term our Income should be sufficient to meet our operating costs. Indications are that the Subs/Donations Income is falling whilst operating costs are increasing slightly. Members should therefore consider whether Subscriptions, which of course are voluntary, should be increased. He confirmed that he would take cash. He was asked how many people contributed to the group and he thought about 50. Richard commented that if more people contributed, we would be able to keep the subs at £3.
Richard thanked the Treasurer for taking on the role.
The accounts were voted on and accepted unanimously.
- The Group Annual Report was also discussed and was voted on and accepted unanimously.** The Annual Report is appended to these minutes.
- 6 Elections to the committee were held, all current members were willing to stand again, Richard asked if anyone else would be willing to join the committee, but no one volunteered.
The committee was voted on and was accepted unanimously.

7 There were no Motions at this time for the CSPA Oct AGM, but we also had a good discussion on the proposal to move to one member one vote for elections to the EC from 2026. We had a single vote, which gave the following result. (See the details in Sally's talk below)
In favour 15, against 1, abstain 1.

Talk - Sally Tsoukaris the CSPA General Secretary gave us a comprehensive view of CSPA activity.

Rule 2, Objects of CSPA state – Campaigning on issues that matter to our members is an important part of what we do in meeting our declared aims of “maintaining and improving the purchasing power of pensions” and also “to promote the economic and social well-being of pensioners”

CSPA -represent members and -

They have regular meetings with the Cabinet Office. -Conduct well attended Webinars - Arranged new travel insurance and 10% discounted motor insurance from April 2025 -Strictly non-party political.

By joining with the campaigning power of over 130 organisations, they focus on campaigns that matter most to members -pension rises in line with inflation -protecting the Triple Lock – stressing the impact on frozen tax thresholds on pensioners – Government changes, such as the Winter Fuel Payments – and the need for better National Health and Social Care.

CS Pensions - Cabinet Office has informed us that Capita “had the strongest bid” and “innovative use of new AI technology” but stressed to us in the meantime MyCSP must deliver “Business as usual” during the transition. Capita take over from December 8th.2025

On the discussion we had earlier about the changes in voting for EC members, Sally quoted that In 2018, 61 groups and 2 branches were represented at the AGM

In 2023 34 groups and 2 branches were represented

In 2024 31 groups (of the 35-remaining active) and 2 branches were represented.

The proposed changes would be likely to be conducted both online and by post, reducing the cost by using the magazine to issue ballot papers and therefore communicate with the wider membership about the elections.

We could at least say that every CSPA member has had an opportunity to influence our future as a member -led organisation.

CSPA is nothing without its members, EC members and staff but primarily its members.

Sally thanked everyone for their support and commitment to CSPA.

8 In Open Forum Richard mentioned that with the increase in fuel bills he had switched to a fixed tariff and got a lower overall charge.

9 One member recommended ‘Independent Age’ if anyone was having difficulties. (Independent Age supports older people facing financial hardship by offering award-winning information, advice and support. www.independentage.org)

10 Richard apologised for the change of date to 28 May.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 28th May 2025** at Chapel Field Road, Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD

Following meetings are Wednesday 10th September 2025 and Wednesday 26th November 2025.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance

Norfolk and Suffolk Group

Annual Report for 2024

The newly created Norfolk and Suffolk Group is working well and we are still looking at opportunities to be more inclusive to former Suffolk Members.

During the year we held 4 in person meetings, which were sufficiently well attended to encourage us to continue arranging such meetings, though of course we would like to have more members present.

The Group AGM was held on 28 February, 2024,

Alan Marrs, our Group Treasurer for over 20 years, reluctantly stood down from this post. We thanked him for his work in keeping our Group finances in good order and subsequently were pleased to be able to present him with a Certificate of Merit.

The remainder of the Group Committee were re-elected, and we were pleased to add Fred Crooks, who kindly offered to be Group Treasurer.

The Group continues to be in a satisfactory financial position, and we will send the Report and Accounts to CSPA Head Office when they are adopted at the 2025 Group AGM on 26 February, 2025.

At our meeting on 22 May, we had a guest speaker:

Jenny Hodge, from Admiral Nurses, who gave a very informative talk on her role and the work of Admiral Nurses and their tie up with Dementia UK. We were pleased to give a donation to Admiral Nurses as a contribution to their work.

The main item at our meeting on 11 September was a review of the CSPA AGM agenda

There was some lively discussion on some motions, which led to a Group view to help our delegate to vote at the AGM in October.

At the Group meeting on 27 November, John Thompson reported back from the CSPA AGM and was thanked for representing the Group view. Margaret Noble then gave an interesting, illustrated talk on Cragside, an unusual property with some unique features.

We were saddened by the death of our Group Membership Secretary and CSPA EC member, Frank Edwards. Frank had been ill for some time but had carried on in his roles until his death in June. We had arranged to present him with a Certificate of Merit at our Group meeting in May, but he was not able to come along. Regrettably he died before we could visit him to give him the Certificate personally.

The vacant post of Group Membership Secretary has been filled by Margaret Noble and we are pleased that she has offered to undertake this important role.

We have produced 4 Group Newsletters, aiming to advertise the forthcoming Group meeting. Although these documents are only 4 pages in length, we seek to pass on information from Group Circulars, plus local news and relevant material from any other source we are aware of. Thanks to Tim and Richard for putting together each draft for comment by the rest of the Committee.

We are grateful to Head Office for their continued support in duplicating and distributing our newsletters and especially for meeting the cost of postage.

Finally, I express my thanks to all the Committee members and other members who have helped to keep the Group alive during the past year. Their time, effort and commitment to the Group and CSPA generally is very much appreciated. We look forward to being able to continue as a viable local Group and to playing an active role in the life of CSPA.

Current Committee Members Are:-

Chair:	Richard West	01603 423144	richard.west08@gmail.com
Secretary:	Tim Hartstone	07827 565758	t.hartstone@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer:	Fred Crooks	01359 342716	fred.crooks550@gmail.com
Membership:	Margaret Noble	07999 413950	megnob43@gmail.com
	Derek Land	01508 520532	derek.land@electramail.co.uk
Delegate	John Thompson	01502 581481	johntommo6@btinternet.com
	Neville Jarvis	0139275490	neville.jarvis1@btinternet.com

Richard West

Chair
CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group