



Teesside Group

Hello everyone,

It's once again time to invite you to our quarterly meeting which will be held at Costa Coffee in the Morrisons car Park at Teesside Park. The date is the 10th September 2026 and the time 2pm.

Part of the purpose of this meeting is to mandate me as your delegate to the AGM of the CSPA which is being held on in October in Kenilworth. We will be debating the motions submitted by groups for debate at this AGM and reaching conclusions on how I should vote on the various motions.

The September edition of the Pensioner will contain the full agenda and it will be useful if you bring it to the meeting. Please make every effort to attend this meeting as it is your opportunity to have a say and influence the national policy of our organisation. All that sounds a bit formal but we always have an informal atmosphere!

After four years with the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, including the last three as General Secretary, Sally Tsoukaris has now retired.

During her time at CSPA, Sally has helped lead the organisation through a period of change while continuing to champion the interests of Civil Service Pension Scheme members in retirement. Whether representing members with Government, supporting our campaigns or working alongside branches and volunteers, she has been a committed advocate for pensioners.

Everyone at CSPA would like to thank Sally for her commitment, leadership and the contribution she has made to the organisation over the past four years. We wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Josie Irwin is the CSPA's new General Secretary. Josie joins us from UNISON, where she led its Equalities Unit, including responsibility for supporting the work of its 170,000 retired members. We all look forward to welcoming her to CSPA and continuing our work on behalf of members.

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Plans for October's CSPA AGM are now well underway. For the first time, following a decision taken at the 2025 AGM, CSPA will be trialling an all-member ballot to elect members to five seats on the Executive Council.

More information will be shared, along with ballot papers and candidate statements, with the September edition of *The Pensioner*. Votes can be cast by post or email, so make sure you don't miss this opportunity to have your say on the organisation's future direction.

The transfer of the Civil Service Pension Scheme to Capita continues to dominate our work in support of CSPA members, as the administrators miss deadline after deadline, failing in their attempts to restore the service to contractually required levels for Scheme members. Although progress has been made in reducing the case backlogs, far too many members are still experiencing unacceptable delays and are frustrated by service issues. The volume of calls and pension cases we continue to receive remains a clear indication that the situation is far from resolved.

This remains deeply frustrating and concerning for all involved, but particularly for members waiting for payments, retirement quotations or for other long-standing issues to be resolved. The HQ team continue to meet regularly with the Cabinet Office, highlighting the most urgent cases for early resolution and pressing improvements to be made in attaining the service that our members deserve.

Having said all that, we look forward to seeing you at the meeting. If you have any problems don't hesitate to get in touch.

The minutes of our June meeting are enclosed.

Yours sincerely,
John Butler
Teesside Group Secretary

Minutes of the Group Meeting held on the 11th June 2026 at Costa Teesside Park at 2pm.

Present

John Butler, Marjorie Bellamy, Christine Foxton, and David Barry.

Apologies for absence

Ken Bellamy and Keith Yallop.

Remarks from the Chair

John welcomed members to the meeting, in particular David Barry on his return from illness. Eileen Allen was once again present as a guest.

Minutes of the Group Meeting of 11th September 2025

The minutes were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

Secretary's report

John had attended the special regional meeting in Manchester on the 12th. That meeting had been attended by representatives from across the North to hear a presentation about the CSPA's legal status, in particular its possible conversion to a company limited by guarantee.

It was a very interesting meeting with plenty of discussion. A proposal would likely be discussed in Coventry.

Treasurer's report

Keith's attendance had been thwarted by an accident on the A66. However, he had sent a written summary. He reported that the group's finances were still running smoothly. The latest group funds were £915.14 in the bank and £10.42 cash in hand, making total of £925.56. We currently had 125 members.

General Discussion

A lively and informal discussion then followed about current events, the group and pensions.

John closed the meeting at 3pm.