

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organizations

4 May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Brief Report on AGM 2017

I am writing to give a brief report of the AGM held earlier this week, which was successful and speedily conducted. It was a pleasure to see representatives of so many constituent organisations present. I hope that even more representatives of constituent organisations will attend next year.

The Minutes of the AGM 2016, with minor amendments, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The General Secretary had secured a speaker- Alex Cunningham MP (Shadow Pensions Minister) for the AGM, but the snap General Election had meant that he had withdrawn. It also proved difficult to secure any speakers, despite a request to the Chairpersons of the Major Parliamentary Parties, in the timescale allowed, possibly because their Party Election Manifestos had not been published.

The Financial Report and Audited Accounts were agreed and adopted. Mr. W. G. H. Tickner agreed to continue as independent examiner for the following year, 2017-18.

During his Financial Report, the Treasurer told the AGM that subscription income was not covering the charges for the Secretariat. In line with the motion on administration of the PSPC carried at the AGM 2016, he explained that it was now necessary to increase subscriptions by 50 % in order to ensure that the PSPC was put on a stable financial footing. The increase would be phased at 25% for this and next year, so that the PSPC could continue to afford its administrative functions.

A motion moved by the Executive Committee to increase subscription costs by 25% this year for 2017-2018 and 25% for 2018-2019 was carried unanimously.

The 2017 PSPC constitution, reflecting new subscription rates will be circulated to constituent members in due course.

The Officers and Executive Committee members for the coming year were elected unopposed and are as follows:

Officers

Chair: Brian Sturtevant	(Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance)
Vice Chair: Carole Regan	(National Union of Teachers)
Treasurer: Steve Edwards	(National Association of Retired Police Officers)
General Secretary: Lisa Ray	(Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance)

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ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Association of Retired and Former HMI Schools • Association of HM Inspectors of Schools (Scotland) • Association of Local Authority Chief Executives • Association of Teachers and Lecturers • Association of School and College Leaders • British Broadcasting Corporation Pensioners Association • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (Scotland) • Educational Institute of Scotland • Forces Pension Society • Foreign and Commonwealth Office Association • GMB • MDP Retired Officers' Association • National Association of Head Teachers • National Association of Retired Firefighters • National Association of Retired Police Officers • National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers • National Federation of Occupational Pensioners • National Union of Teachers • Overseas Service Pensioners' Association • Prospect • Public and Commercial Services Union • Retired Police Officers' Association (Scotland) • Retired Prison Governors Association • Retired Teachers' Association (Northern Ireland) • Scottish Retired Teachers' Association • UNISON • University and College Union

Executive Committee

Mike Duggan	(Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance)
John Pitt-Brooke	(Forces Pension Society)
Ian Potter	(National Association of Retired Police Officers)
Nick Kirby	(National Union of Teachers)
Andrew Ruffhead	(Prospect)
Philip Burgess	(UCU)

General Election 2017

In my report to the AGM, I was able to update those present on the PSPC General Election Campaign plans, agreed that morning by the Executive Committee (EC).

The EC agreed that the 2015 General Election Campaign Manifesto will be updated to include later developments, including among other issues, the possible effects of Brexit.

A covering letter outlining the four key issues for PSPC in the run up to the General Election and thereafter, will be drafted to send with the 2017 Manifesto to Prospective Parliamentary Candidates. All these documents will be made available for constituent organisations to download from the website, as well as by email.

The Manifesto remains very relevant and will include the issues that we have always campaigned on. However, in order to make a greater impact in our campaign for the 2017 General Election we will highlight the following four issues:

- **The Triple Lock, a fair level of state pension, and method of indexation for public sector pensions**
- **Universal Pensioner Benefits**
- **Pensions for Life**
- **Uprating of state pensions in the EU post Brexit**

The AGM heard that during the year, the EC had responded to a discussion paper on the Household Inflation Index (HII), expressing support for the work being done. There was some way to go before it would be ready. In the meantime, the inclusion of housing costs in an alternative inflation measure, CPI (H) seemed to give a better reflection of increases in costs of living, although it was far from perfect.

A motion put forward by Executive Committee that the PSPC begin campaigning for CPI (H) which has had consistently higher rates than CPI, to be used to uprate those public sector pensions currently increased in line with CPI was carried unanimously. The motion also stated that the EC would maintain a watching brief on the HII and consult the AGM further when there is clarity in its status.

Business at this year's AGM was dealt with swiftly, and it was suggested that next year the EC consider again inviting a speaker to the AGM to lead discussion on a relevant issue. It was also agreed to start the 2017 AGM at the earlier time of 1.30pm. Date to be confirmed.

We have a busy year ahead. Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues that you would like to raise.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Ray
General Secretary

