



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE  
RETIRED OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION**



**MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE  
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, HARROGATE  
SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 2021**

**Apologies:** Patron Jack Aspinall QPM, Peter Smith, Harry Norwood, Albert Scales, Bill Duncan, Robert Prescott, John Hills.

**Chairman's Opening Address**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10am by inviting everyone to stand in silent tribute as he read out the names of those 20 members who had passed on since our last reunion in 2019. He then went on to welcome everyone present including those attending for the first time along with our guests ACC Andrea Bishop, who was standing in for CCMDP Andy Adams QPM, Eamon Keating, DPF Chairman and Superintendent Sandy Stewart the Force Liaison Officer.

In his opening remarks the Chairman read out a letter from Mr Adams who was unable to attend this year's reunion owing to a long-standing family commitment.

The Chairman continued by saying how disappointed he was that some absent members of the association had taken to Facebook posting what could only be described as derogatory comments about the Force and its leadership. He stressed such comments were unhelpful and did not represent the views of the association or committee. Members present concurred.

In his address to members the Chairman spoke of the sadness felt at the sudden and unexpected loss of Treasurer Peter Haddock and Vice Chairman Roger Conner and said they both had made a valuable contribution to the affairs of the association and the committee over the years and would be sadly missed by all.

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2019 meeting were accepted by the members as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary began by welcoming everyone to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate noting that this is our first visit to Harrogate and although it has taken a long time getting here was pleased to say we have made it last. He continued to report as follows:

Since we last met in 2019 some 31 new members have joined which is good which includes 11 this year and it is encouraging to see quite a number of new members who are here for the first time. I sure you will enjoy the weekend as it's a good social gathering which is what it's all about. Can I also say how pleasing it is to see such a good attendance especially given the current circumstances.

As Secretary I continue to deal with routine enquires - some by telephone but mainly by email - covering a variety of subjects such as change of address, membership and pensions.

We also occasionally receive requests for financial assistance but, as you know, that is not something which is in our remit. In such cases we do however recommend other avenues that may be able to assist including more recently the civil service charity 'for you by you'. Your committee has met only on 1 occasion and that was in November 2019 following our last AGM. As you know we normally hold 3 meetings a year, held centrally in London courtesy of Thompson Solicitors who provide us with excellent facilities at no cost. However, despite not being able to meet formally as a committee we have kept in touch via email and telephone when necessary although it is much better meeting face to face and fingers crossed, we will soon be able to return to holding meetings in the usual way.

For an organisation such as ours - communication with members is important and we do that by posting items on our website - for example, information on membership services, details of the reunion, and sadly all too often Obituaries. However, we do rely on Force HQ to distribute on our behalf and of course the lockdown meant that we were unable to send out hard copies of Talk Through and our Newsletter and had to resort to publishing links on the website to access both. We also resorted to email communication to those members who had advised us of their email address. However, we soon found out that many of the address were no longer active or out of date. Thanks to our Liaison Officer Sandy Stewart we were able to mail out a full distribution of our Newsletter in May asking members to update their emails. Pleased to say that produced some response and at the moment we have around 250 that we can email but even then, a few bounce back. So, for the time being the main source of communication will be via the website and email.

My thanks go to staff at DPF Head Office for their help in updating the site on our behalf. Also, I would like to place on record thanks to DPF Pension Guru, Paul Hunter for his help and advice on pension matters which these days can be extremely complex.

**A few things** on Membership Services – **Staysure Travel** Insurance offers 10% discount to ROA members – **The Tax Relief Company** will offer to check your Tax Code so see if you are paying too much tax and due a refund – **For You By You** is the Charity for civil servants and supports current, former and retired civil servants and can offer practical, financial and emotional support – and more recently **PMAS** (Police Mutual Assurance Society) has come on board. They have been around for many years, dedicated to helping the police family and provide help and advice on a wide range of matters including insurance, finance and health & well-being issues. They also have a presence at HQMDP Passout Out parades and are keen to be involved with ROA.

The '**My Document Locator**' Booklet is still available for download via the website. It is **not** a Will - but simply a check list of personal documents that records where your key personal records, assets and papers can be located in the event of death or incapacity.

Much has been reported recently about the 'Triple Lock' formula on the basic state pension which guarantees an increase of average earnings, the consumer price index, or 2.5% whichever is the higher. Lots of debate and media speculation, however in the event Government recently announced that the 'Earnings Element' would be suspended for one year. Disappointing.

Finally, as you know any increase to the Civil Service Pension is based on the September CPI figure which is then applied from April the following year. This year the increase was 0.5%.

What can we expect for next year! Well, the CPI index rose by 3.2% in the 12 months to August 2021, up from 2.0% in July: the increase of 1.2 percentage points is the largest ever recorded increase in the CPI index. The September figure on which next year's increase is based will be released in a few days' time.

On that note Chairman that concludes my report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

In presenting his report acting Treasurer Ken Hicks began by introducing himself to those present and went on to record his personal thanks to both Jenny and Geoff Heal in dealing with the accounts following the sudden passing of Peter Haddock in March 2020. They had also dealt with the auditors prior to handing over the accounts when finalised.

The A/Treasurer then gave a summary of the financial position noting that expenditure was considerably down over the period given that there had been no committee meetings held nor had there been a need to find a new venue for the Reunion as this had been held over from 2020. This resulted in a surplus of **£2066** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. He also drew attention to the heading 'Sales' under Income, this he said referred to annual membership contributions which amounted to £2,235 + £12 interest = **£2,247**. Total assets including 32 Day on Call Account stands at **£28,197**.

### **Annual Audit**

The A/Treasurer wished to place on record the Committees thanks to the DPF for their continued support which included financing the annual audit. The ROA financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March and all the ROA accounts and associated papers for the year 2020 and 2021 were taken to our auditors Azets Audit Services at Fareham for the necessary audit. Our financial position for both periods was found to be in order. Their report is available for all members to scrutinise. Given the accounts are in good order the A/Treasurer recommended that his Finance Report be put to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by Lionel Roslyn, seconded Les Cracknell and carried unanimously. A copy of the audited accounts is held on file.

### **Address by ACC**

Ms Bishop started by thanking the ROA for the opportunity to attend this meeting. She then gave a brief resume of her police career leading up to joining MDP and went on to give an insight into some of the issues happening in the force now and plans for the future. Ms Bishop also made it known she would be leaving MDP next year when the Force Headquarters moved from Essex to Cambridgeshire next year.

### **DPF Report**

Eamon Keating, DPF National Chairman then addressed the meeting by reflecting on former times during this, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Force and Federation. He said the Federation had helped push for amalgamation of the three departmental constabularies back in the day and over the years had played key roles in the development of the Force including introduction of legislation in 1987 with the MDP Act. The Force he said is continuing to evolve and went on to highlight some of the current issues including pensions, fitness harmonisation and likely effects of budget constraints.

## **Election of Officers**

The election of the following officers for 2021/22 then took place.

**Chairman:** Geoff Heal proposed by Mel Goudie, seconded by Lyn Nixon  
**Vice Chair:** Mel Goudie proposed by Catriona McBeath, seconded by Lionel Murphy  
**Secretary:** David King proposed by Richard Waters, seconded by Bob Bailey  
**Treasurer:** Ken Hicks proposed by Les Cracknell, seconded by Richard Waters  
**Asst. Sec:** Catriona McBeath proposed by Liz Heather, seconded by Michael Bone  
**Member:** John Barber\*  
**Member:** Chris McComb\*  
**Member:** Neville Carter\*  
**Member:** Jenny Heal\*

\* Elected unopposed 'en bloc', proposed by Richard Waters, seconded Sue Parkes

All above members were elected and will form the committee for the next twelve months.

## **Any Other Business**

Gwen King thanked all the members for their continuing support with respect to her fundraising for her local hospital.

## **Closing Remarks**

The Chairman said that a venue for the 2022 ROA reunion and AGM had yet to be determined. It would be held during Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and details would be announced in due course.

In drawing business to a close the Chairman thanked the ACC Andrea Bishop and the DPF Chairman Eamon Keating for the continuing excellent relations and assistance given to the ROA committee and closed the meeting at 12.25pm.