

**MINUTES OF SPRING 2023 AGM AND BRANCH MEETING AT APPLEYARD, SITTINGBOURNE ON
TUESDAY 21st MARCH 2023**

APOLOGIES

Stuart Downs, Steve Bull.

MINUTES OF WINTER 2022 MEETING

The minutes agreed by all present and were signed by Chairman and Secretary.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All officers and members of Committee wished to continue in those roles and no other members came forward asking to be selected and therefore the status quo remains.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The report as in Newsletter was agreed and Secretary requested that widows Christmas Gift of £50 should continue this year and it was agreed by those present. In relation to Duxford trip there are 28 members and partners attending which makes the trip viable. The coach costs £900 and entry to Duxford is £23.70 for pensioners. All these payments will be made prior to the trip. The Branch are subsidising this trip and members and partners will pay £40 each. The cost to the Branch will be finalised after the trip in the event that others decide to attend.

The issue of the move by the Force from Northfleet back to Sutton Road was discussed and yet the cost where not known but it is suspected that this move was ill thought out and costly. There is a Covenant on Sutton Road the main building which means it is unable to be used for other purposes, the full details are not known. The Chairman and I attended a Meeting at FHQ with Mr Ian Drysdale the DCO of the Force who stated the original move to Northfleet was necessary and the move back to Sutton Road was also essential. He also stated that the Buildings behind the main building will still be sold off.

The question that did not arise was what will happen to the new Force Control Room that is under construction at Coldharbour and will it continue to be built or will the existing one at Sutton Road continue to be used instead. The issue will then be what is the financial implication when Kent Rate payers keep getting increases in payment for Police and is this money being put to good use.

I raised the issue of Police Pensioners not receiving letters regarding the pension increase and after many reminders and months waiting payroll have stated that they will send these out to all those on email provided they give email detail including full name, date of birth, pension number and national insurance number to them in advance. These emails should be received by all those who have done as asked by end of May 2023. Those not on email should write to Payroll requesting a letter be sent to them with this pension increase details. I await to see if this happens.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman explained that volunteers were still required to assist in running of Police Museum at the Old Police Station in Faversham and asked that any member interested should contact Curator.

The Chairman and Secretary attended the Benevolent Fund AGM and had a run down regarding the state of the Fund which is in a very healthy position. The Death Grant has been raised from £2000 to £2500 and other medical examinations such as scans have had amount raised when members have to wait to long for NHS procedures. The Fund will also make grants from equipment need to make life easier for pensioners and will also fund travel costs to hospitals in some circumstances.

The Chairman explained all the costings for the Duxford Trip and all present agreed that the trip should be subsidised by the Branch.

Bob Morris had investigated a Barge Trip on the Medway which took 12 people at a cost for short trip of £450 (£37.50 per person), half day trip £660 (£55 per person) and full day £990 (£82.50 per person), which makes this an expensive day out with very limited number that could attend.

TREASURERS REPORT

The financial position of the Branch is good and as of 1st January 2023 the Branch had the sum of £8505.93 in the account with Lloyds Bank. All payments owing have been dealt with and no matters are outstanding. As already agreed the widows Christmas Gift of £50 each will continue again this year. The Increase in subs is the same as the increase in Police pensions 10.1%. The annual cost of subs will rise to £24.60.

INCORPORATION OF NARPO

I attended a Meeting in Reading on the issue of incorporation and having been sceptical on the matter believing that for over 100 years I cannot see why it is necessary but having heard the arguments I can see that as it stands members and Branch officers are liable should a claim be made against the Branch and could result in financial ruin for some. As it stands we are unincorporated and therefore can with any litigation if found to be at fault have to pay out personally. If we incorporate, we become a limited company and as such no member or official is liable to more than £1.

It was explained that NARPO and Branches would continue as they are and NARPO HQ would not be able to impose its will without the consent of Conference and that as many have thought HQ cannot take more of Branch funds that they do at present again without the consent of Conference.

Treasurers would do what they do now and submit annual accounts to HQ who would collate them and deal with companies house.

Several large Branches have already indicated that they are looking into incorporating. This issue has to be dealt with at Conference and will require a 2/3 majority to go forward. The cost is expected to be in the region of £25k but clearly could be more. If this goes forward and some Branches decide not to incorporate, then they be outside the NARPO umbrella meaning they would have to take out

their own liability insurance in order to run the Branch. If any member has any thoughts on this issue please contact Secretary who will try to assist and if required forward issues to NARPO HQ.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the Meeting was closed.

Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7.30pm at Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne.

Signed.....Secretary.....Dated

Signed.....Chairman.....Dated