

N.A.R.P.O



Spring 2020

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You are cordially invited to attend the AGM and half yearly meeting of the Branch to be held at, The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne (opposite side of road to Avenue Theatre), at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 24th March 2020.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. Obituaries
 3. Minutes of Winter Meeting
 4. Matters Arising
 5. Chairman's Report
 6. Secretary's Report
 7. Treasurer's Report
 8. Election of Officers and Committee
 9. Honorary Chairman and Secretary
 10. Any Other Business
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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Winter is almost over and in general the conditions have not been that bad and this enables us to look forward hopefully to a long warm spring and summer. The only blot is the ongoing chaos caused by BREXIT, which will hopefully resolve in the favour of the United Kingdom.

Once again Christmas Gifts of £50 were delivered to all Branch widows and all have expressed thanks for this gift and it is hoped that again this year the Branch agree to a monetary gift. At the winter 2019 Meeting it was raised the issue of increasing the amount paid and this is an item for discussion at this Meeting.

NARPO subscriptions have in line with the CPI in September 2019 of 1.7% increased this year to £21.48, which works out at £1.79 per month. The Police pension will also rise by this percentage and the basic rate old age pension will rise by 3.9%, however individuals will be notified of the rise they receive as it depends if they are in receipt of certain benefits.

All officers and committee members have expressed a wish to continue in those rolls and therefore unless any other member wishes to put themselves forward for any of these posts before the Meeting then they will be re-elected.

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

It was discussed at the Winter Meeting that to encourage members to attend Meetings we should offer them a subsidised meal at the Appleyard Restaurant at a cost of only £5 per member and the Branch will make up the difference. If any member wishes to take up this offer can they please notify the Secretary. The £5 will be payable on the night of the Meeting and members wishing to attend should be at the Appleyard by 6pm.

PASSING OF BRANCH MEMBERS

It is with great sadness that I report the death of former Inspector Malcolm Rous who was one of the nicest and kindest men I have ever had the privilege to know. He was also a great boss who always considered his staff and their wellbeing. Malcolm had many talents and was a no nonsense copper as well as brilliant artist and photographer. I was privileged to have attended his funeral and the very large number of former officers and friends was a tribute to this great man who is truly a great and sad loss. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Patricia and his family at this saddest of times.

It is with sadness that I report the death of former DC Ian Godsmark who passed away on 5th February 2020 and our sincere condolences go to his wife Jennifer for this sad loss.

It is with sadness that I report the death of former Det/Insp Norman Parkinson who sadly passed away in South Africa on 27th January 2020 shortly after returning there after a visit to the UK. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

OBITUARIES (* denotes Branch Member)

Former DC 7345 Neil Forsyth	Died 13/10/19	Last served Sittingbourne
Former Sgt 6839 John Goering	Died 9/11/19	Last served SB-Firearms
Former D/Insp 4362 Raymond Scott	Died 16/11/19	Last served FHQ
Former PC 2298 John Abell	Died 23/11/19	Last served Edenbridge
Former Sgt 2477 David O'Sullivan	Died 22/11/19	Last served Maidstone
Former PC 4106 Roger Goldsmith	Died 30/11/19	Last served SB Special Ops
Former Ch/Supt 1851 Stanley Clarke	Died 6/12/19	Last served FHQ
Former PC 1392 George Fairhall	Died 28/11/19	Last served Canterbury
Former PC 2048 Oliver Davis	Died 25/11/19	Last served Dover
Former PC 2632 John Smith	Died 23/12/19	Last served Faversham
Former DC 4866 Keith Paton	Died 27/12/19	Last served Regional Crime Squad
Former PC 3775 John McLeod	Died 13/1/20	Last served Traffic Nackington
Former DS 2067 John Newport	Died 22/1/20	Last served Canterbury
*Former DI 7615 Norman Parkinson	Died 18/1/20	Last served Tonbridge
*Former Insp 3973 Malcolm Rous	Died 23/1/20	Last served Gillingham
*Former DC 8761 Ian Godsmark	Died 5/2/20	Last served Chatham

PENSIONS FOR LIFE

This issue in relation to trying to get equality for police widows and widowers in relation to pension rights should they remarry, co-habitat or enter into civil partnerships following the death of their partners. In Northern Ireland no such restrictions are in force and to further complicate this issue in England and Wales the pension is only retained if the marriage or co-habitation occurred after 1st April 2015, whereas there is no such restriction in Scotland. We are hoping that now Brexit is over these issues will come to the fore and decisions on fairness prevail.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM PAYROLL

They have received several items of correspondence from the Royal Mail for police pensioners who have moved address and have not notified payroll of this change. If any pensioner has not received copies of their pension payslips, or in fact any payroll for a few years, the above may well be the reason.

In a small number of cases we have been able to contact the pensioner, but in the vast majority we have no contact details on their pension record or the telephone number etc are no longer active.

If you have moved and have not notified payroll, please do so. This only applies for those for whom we have received returned mail.

A further request please -

If pensioners would like their P60's sent to them via email as opposed to via the post please could you ask if they would advise us by sending an email to the Payroll Department payroll@ecis.police.uk

Added to the above payroll will accept new addresses vis email provided they are accompanied with two forms of identification i.e. Date of birth, National Insurance Number, first four numbers of account pension paid into and middle names if any.

MEMBERS CHANGE OF DETAILS

Should any member change address or other details then please notify the Secretary in order that paperwork arrived at correct site with correct details. Can we also request that all those that have email addresses send these to the Secretary as with 312 members I feel sure some have not provided an email address. The reason for requesting email addresses is to try to save on high costs of printing and postage and thus provide the branch with funds to improve the service we are able to provide to pensioners. As you will be aware postage is rising by a large amount in April 2020

Your assistance in providing these email details will be appreciated. We understand that not all members have email addresses and these will continue to receive newsletters by post as normal.

WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The branch runs welfare section and any member with any problems should contact the Secretary for any advice etc. All conversations and dealings are dealt with in the strictest confidence. Welfare representatives are Bruce Goldfarb and Terry Lynch.

BRANCH WEBSITE

Those members that have access to the branch website at www.medwaynarpo.org are reminded to check the website regularly for updates. Should any member wish to advertise items for sale etc on this website, then please contact the Secretary. The website shows all the latest updates for your information.

POLICE MUTUAL INSURANCE

I have been informed by several members that Motor Insurance has increased in some cases by £100 and I have advised that members affected should contact Police Mutual to discuss these rises. Myself I had renewal notification and the premium had increased by £85 on the previous year so I contacted them and found that my 2-year-old vehicle was still valued at price I paid when it was new. Clearly the vehicle was not worth that amount 2 years later. Police Mutual explained that they could not change the premium they had been sent from the insurers and could only look at it if policyholder called them to query the premium. My premium ended up costing an additional £28. It begs the question how many members have renewed the insurance and paid the additional amounts without contacting Police Mutual. I would therefore suggest that all premiums for Motor or Home Insurance should be checked with them to ensure you are not being overcharged.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman - Mr Terry Lynch

Vice Chairman - Mr Stephen Bull

Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Goldfarb

Committee Members:

Mr Christopher Mayes, Mr Jim Rayment, Mr Maurice Baggott, Mr Frank Gallagher

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Should any member have any item they wish to raise at this meeting they should notify the Secretary in order that the matter can be researched and discussed in detail.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance Sittingbourne.

B.T. Goldfarb Branch Secretary

