

N.A.R.P.O

Medway and District Branch

Spring 2023

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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, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st March 2023.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. Obituaries
 3. Minutes of Winter 2022 Meeting
 4. Selection of Committee etc
 5. Chairman's Report
 6. Matters arising
 7. Half yearly Secretary's Report
 8. Treasurer's Report
 9. Any other business
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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The last year has been somewhat challenging with the rise in energy costs and cost of living rises together with the Bank of England keep hiking interest rates leaving us all worse off and the situation appears to be worsening. The Government are doing nothing to alleviate the position with strikes and refuse to accept that the reasons wages are losing pace with everything else that is going on is because over the last 10 years they have been making situation worse. We keep hearing how they are going to improve things but to get staff in essential services wages must match the current situation in these services. People are not going to join professions that do not give proper remuneration, that enable them to pay inflationary costs we are all experiencing. A classic example of incompetence is that during the Covid pandemic huge amounts were paid for PPE that was not useable and no efforts are being made to recoup this money.

In respect of immigration the language used by some Government Ministers is divisive and totally unacceptable. Whilst we all appreciate that some of the people travelling across the channel in small boats are not genuine asylum seekers the vast majority probably are, and the Home Office has failed to deal with the situation with checks taking sometimes a couple of years. These people are being kept in hotels at vast expense to

taxpayers. There appears to be no will in Government to make safe routes for these people to enter the country safely.

The war in Ukraine is still ongoing and appears to show no signs in ending.

The Branch have arranged two events which it is hoped sufficient members would wish to attend. The first is The Police College to meet with Deputy Chief Officer to hear what the Force are doing, and this will be held at 10am on Friday 24th March 2023 followed by a tour of the Police Memorial Garden. The second trip is to RAF Duxford on 11th May 2023 when it is hoped sufficient interest will be forthcoming. Names of members and their partners and children should be sent to Secretary as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the Branch will subsidise some of the cost.

I would also request that more members try to attend Meetings as at present attendance is very low and this will hopefully engage the Branch into holding events for members which in the past have been very poorly subscribed and hence had to be cancelled. The Meetings and events give members the opportunity to meet up with former colleagues to discuss issues of mutual interest.

THE FUTURE OF NARPO

I attended Meeting in Reading on this subject and at present NARPO is Unincorporated which means that we are not covered by Company law which gives many safeguards. It was pointed out that with a more and more litigious world then NARPO and Branches could be liable to claims and our insurers would seek any reason not to cover any claims made. This could in the worst-case scenario end up with members losing vast amounts of money and could result in the loss of home should a case be proved against them.

If we decide to incorporate, NARPO would become a limited company meaning liability is on the company and not the individual. A couple of the larger Branches are actively discussing incorporating.

We could end up with a situation where some Branches decide to incorporate, and others stay as they are. Those who decided to remain unincorporated once HQ has incorporated would mean they are no longer an integral part of NARPO and would only become affiliated members meaning they would have to take out their own public liability insurance. This issue will be discussed at Conference 2023 and if a 2/3 majority vote in favour of incorporating the issue will be costed and a Motion sent back to Conference in 2024. The cost is expected to be in the region of £25K and probably more. Each Branch will be required to incorporate individually which I believe will be arranged through HQ. The meeting was assured that Branches would remain autonomous and that monies held by Branches could not be taken by HQ except of course the annual precept payments.

If a fairly large percentage wish to remain Unincorporated it is difficult to see what advantage it would be remaining in NARPO as simply an affiliated Branch with little or no protection. If views remain strong and remaining in the status, then I suppose it could be argued that those Branches may decide to go it alone and start up an Unincorporated rival to NARPO. To remain unincorporated has no cost implications.

This is purely what I gained from the Meeting and much thought needs to be given before a decision is made.

OBITUARIES

Former PC 9271 Mary-Anne Wake	17/10/22	Last served Ebbsfleet
Former Supt 2978 Christopher Longfield	11/10/22	Last served FHQ
Former Insp 3179 Ronald Dillon	22/10/22	Last served Cranbrook
Former PC 3147 Christopher Mephram	31/10/22	Last served Maidstone
Former Supt 2567 Peter Spittles	27/10/22	Last served Canterbury
Former PC 6681 Joanna Mantle	3/11/22	Last served West Malling
Former DC 6389 Stephen Paine	8/11/22	Last served Medway
Former DS 10099 Graham Hooks	22/11/22	Last served Maidstone
Former PC5824 David Stevenson	29/11/22	Last served Canterbury
Former Sgt 3965 Richard Watchus	17/12/22	Last served Faversham
Former Supt 2771 Desmond Ladd	26/12/22	Last served Dover
Former Insp 3557 Bryan Hubble	13/12/22	Last served Sevenoaks
Former PC 2288 Donald Underdown	11/1/23	Last served Gravesend
Former PC 2654 Brian Brightman	19/1/23	Last served Traffic
Former PC 5242 Charles Jordan	3/1/23	Last served Birchington
Former PC 5227 Barbara Earl	27/12/22	Last served West Malling
Former DCI 1880 Roy Cleaver	9/2/23	Last served Dover
Former PC 6534 Donald Diprose	8/2/23	Last served Traffic
Former PC 5100 John Smith	19/1/23	Last served Traffic
Former Sgt 3776 Robert Norton	12/2/23	Last served Ramsgate
Former PC 7425 Felicity Bevan	19/2/23	Last served Traffic
Former DC 12839 Geoffrey Kirya	13/2/23	Last served Fraud Team

WIDOWS PENSIONS FOR LIFE

It was disappointing to hear that the case was rejected at the Court of Appeal and counsel for NARPO advised that there are no grounds for an appeal. NARPO however vowed to continue the fight for widows outside the courts, who at present still have to choose between a lonely life or losing the pension having decided to take another partner.

TREASURERS REPORT

All monies owed have been paid and there are no matters outstanding at this time and the latest statement dated 7th February 2023 showed a balance of £8759.93p. The Branch funds are in a very healthy position for carrying forward into 2023. The 2022 accounts will be made available at the Spring Meeting 2023.

MEMBERS CHANGE OF DETAILS

Should any member change address or other details then please notify the Secretary in order that paperwork arrives at correct site with correct details.

PENSION RISE

The CPI for September 2023 was 10.1% and this will be the rise given to this year's police pensions, which the Treasury have agreed to and subscriptions to NARPO will rise by the same amount.

WELFARE & BENEVOLENT FUND

The Branch run a welfare section and any member with any problems should contact the Secretary for 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 site regularly for updates. Should any member wish to advertise items for sale etc on this website then please contact the Secretary?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Mr Terry Lynch

Vice Chairman Mr Stephen Bull

Secretary/Treasurer Mr Bruce Goldfarb

Committee Members

Mr Christopher Mayes Mr Robert Morris Mr Maurice Baggott Mr Frank Gallagher
Mr Peter Simmons

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at The Pippin Room, The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, ME10 4DE. This Meeting is also the Annual General Meeting.

Bruce T. Goldfarb
Secretary Medway & District Branch NARPO