

N.A.R.P.O



Spring 2021

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The AGM and Spring Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne is cancelled due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Any member wishing to raise any items should contact the Secretary on the above email or telephone number and any item will be discussed with the Committee and the member informed and an update place onto the Branch website.

AGENDA

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

Winter is almost over and in general the conditions have not been too bad and this enables us to look forward to a long warm spring and summer. The only blot is the ongoing chaos caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Vaccinations are going ahead at a high rate and those involved in this should receive a thank you from us all for the spectacular roll out of these vaccines. The pandemic has caused many problems for the elderly in being restricted to life at home without family and friends able to visit but I am sure we all hope that this will soon end once the vaccine is given to the adult population and we can return to some semblance of normality.

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 same monetary gift.

NARPO subscriptions have in line with the CPI in September 2020 increased this year by 0.5% to £21.60, which works out at £1.80 per month.

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.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following a very unprecedented year with Covid 19 restrictions and 'Lock Downs' put in place by the Government to try a curb the Virus in order to protect ourselves, Meetings had to be cancelled or in some cases Zoom meetings held, so there is not a great deal to report to our Members. Our last Branch Meeting of NARPO was held on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne (Opposite the Police Station). This being our last meeting at this Venue. It was decided to move further Meetings to the Appleyard Bar and Restaurant (formerly known as UK Paper Club), Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, as it was felt that it would be better for Members to attend, where there is off street parking, a bar and restaurant to get something to eat and the Pippin Room for meetings and for ease of members, everything is on GROUND FLOOR LEVEL, which we felt was an important factor. The Hire Costs were the same as before.

However due to the 'Lock down Restrictions', both the Spring and the Winter 2020 Meetings had to be cancelled. There has been no Kent Branches Quarterly Meetings, which are normally held at the Police Training College, since January 2020, although there have been two Meetings, which were conducted over Zoom Video from Branch Representatives homes. These were Chaired by Chris Collins (Training College Management), where we were updated about Police Training Courses being cancelled; Police Staff working from home and the Kent Police Headquarters in Sutton Road, Maidstone, as we all remember it now closed and it being relocated to Ebbsfleet, near Gravesend, where the new North Kent Police Station is located.

There are also arrangements in hand to build and create a New Police Memorial Garden in the grounds of the existing Police Training College at Maidstone, (which will be staying on that site). It is proposed that the New Memorial Garden will be located just inside the security gates, leading up to the Police Training College. A Committee has been formed, including the Architect's Department of the KCC, together with a representative of NARPO, which is the Chairman of Maidstone Branch of NARPO, who will give feed back to the Branches and in turn we will pass on to you our Members.

The Kent Police Museum, which is now located at the Old Faversham Police Station, located in Church Road, Faversham, is ready to be opened and was scheduled for Spring this year, but again is now subject to the current 'Lock Down Restrictions'. A Curator has been appointed and as I understand it has worked very hard to get things ready for the opening of the Museum.

The Secretary has delivered Christmas Gifts of £50 out to all Branch Widows, either by personal delivery or post with a Christmas Card to each. We have had some nice feedback from all of them, showing their appreciation.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the item that has been put on our Branch Website concerning some Retired Members receiving letters from Kent Police Payroll and Pensions Department about being OVERPAID in their Pension Payments. It has caused some distress to some of them so if affected please read the detailed article and go on the Link on the Website. DO NOT JUST PAY THE MONEY BACK without first receiving an explanation of how this error occurred.

Details of our re scheduled Branch Meetings will be circulated in due course.

OBITUARIES (* denotes Branch Member)

Former Sgt 8414 Gary Clark	Died 4/10/20	Last served FHQ
Former PC 3572 John Endicott	Died 31/10/20	Last served Rochester
Former PC5815 David Lewis	Died 4/11/20	Last served Folkestone
Former PC 4881 Robin Venner	Died 21/11/20	Lasts served Folkestone
Former Insp 4099 Alan Hatch	Died 30/11/20	Last served Sittingbourne
Former PC 5109 Christopher Petters	Died 22/11/20	Last served Sittingbourne
Former PC 7109 David Bramble	Died 27/11/20	Last served Margate
Former DS 4338 David Creed	Died 30/11/20	Last served Longport
Former DI 4222 John McCann	Died 15/12/20	Last served FHQ
Former PC 5127 Timothy Pryke	Died 3/12/20	Last served Chatham
Former C/Insp 1576 Derek Skinner	Died 1/12/20	Last served Rochester
Former PC 6364 William Mountain	Died 14/12/20	Last served Margate
Former PC 11982 Lesley Cox	Died 29/12/20	Last served Margate
Former PC 4538 Roger Martin	Died 13/1/21	Last served Maidstone
Former PC 5688 Robert Wiggins	Died 4/1/21	Last served FHQ
Former DS 3844 Duncan Falconer	Died 26/1/21	Last served Tonbridge
Former PC 3285 Samuel Jones	Died 26/1/21	Last served Hawkhurst
*Former PC 2586 Colin Weller	Died 2/1/21	Last served Chatham
Former PC 8083 Mark Hinchcliffe	Died 14/1/21	Last served North Kent
Former PC 6959 Gary Clubb	Died 31/1/21	Last served Tunbridge Wells
Former PC 3663 Graham Lines	Died 2/2/21	Last served Tunbridge Wells

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM PAYROLL

In previous years you asked your NARPO members to let the Payroll department know if they had changed their postal addresses.

As you have kindly done before I would be grateful if you would ask your members again to notify Payroll of any contact detail changes that they have had within the last year if not already done so, including telephone numbers and email addresses.

Also

Please could you ask your members that those wishing to receive the P60's electronically send an email to payroll@ecis.police.uk

*We will require two of the following ID details to be included - Date of Birth, National Insurance number, **first** 4 digits of the bank account that the pension is paid into, middle name/s.*

In particular with the virus situation we find ourselves in, if the P60's can be sent by email they will more than likely be received several weeks before those that are posted via the Royal Mail.

BEREAVEMENT BOOKLETS

NARPO have produced a Bereavement Booklet giving information to member and their families on this subject and these booklets will be sent out to all members for their information.

FRAUDULENT MESSAGES ON NEW DOSE OF COVID 19 VACCINE

ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES AND NEC MEMBERS

I wanted to flag that the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has [received](#) evidence of fraudulent messages being sent to the public informing them a new dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

People are being sent a text message claiming to be from the NHS which informs the recipient that, "we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine." The message ends with a link to a website mocked up to look like a legitimate NHS platform. The website requests personal details, including name and address and banking details.

The CTSI has said "this is the latest in a series of scams themed around the pandemic in circulation since last March. With the UK vaccine rollout underway, scammers have modified their scam to consider this new development."

I thought this may be of interest to you and your members and reminds us to remain vigilant. The CTSI said **"The vaccine brings great hope for an end to the pandemic and lockdowns, but some only wish to create even further misery by defrauding others. The NHS will never ask you for banking details, passwords, or PIN numbers and these should serve as instant red flags. Do not provide any information to the scammers, but please also report suspicious messages to Action Fraud, or if in Scotland, Police Scotland, as this provides intelligence and assists authorities in combating scams."**

POLICE PENSION OVERPAYMENTS

*It has come to our notice that throughout England and Wales as Forces outsource their Pension Administrators to external or other providers, a large number of anomalies are arising; which have resulted in them identifying that a number of Pensions have been paid incorrectly, for a variety of reasons. This has led to the Pensioners having been underpaid or overpaid for a number of years. In the event that you have been underpaid, the monies owed should be paid to you as soon as possible; **if the Administrator is indicating that you have been overpaid it is important that you DO NOT agree to repay any monies; at least until you have established the exact reason for the overpayment.***

Most of these overpayments will have been made as a result of 'mistakes' or 'errors' by the Pension Administrator.

However, the person receiving the overpayments must have acted in good faith and the does not cover where a person knew the payments were not allowed and ought to have made further enquiries as to the overpayments.

The Pensions Ombudsman has indicated that an overpaid member must show that they were not aware of the error when they received the overpayment, and has emphasised in a number of determinations that the recipient of an overpayment should not benefit where:

*it was obvious at the time of payment that 'something was amiss'
a reasonable person in the place of the recipient would have realised a mistake was being made (e.g. where the discrepancy is a large and noticeable one), or*

the recipient was 'heedless' as to whether or not a mistake was being made
The Ombudsman is also less likely to hold that a member has acted in good faith if the member fails to make enquiries about errors in a benefit statement or member communication.

Use these links for our recommendations on what course of action to take next:

- [Overpayments process doc for suggested course of action](#)
- [Recovery of Overpayments – the process and what to do resource](#)
- [Pension Advisory Service Advice](#)

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSION SCHEMES – GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Please see attached letter sent to HM Treasury in response to the Government decision to implement the Deferred Choice Underpin as the remedy to the discrimination caused in public sector pension schemes, this follows the 2018 Court of Appeal's judgement in McCloud that found the Government had discriminated against public sector workers in their policy of transitional protection, which was part of the 2015 reforms to public service pension schemes.

I have also attached a document from HM Treasury outlining the resolution which can be found on the NARPO website (www.narpo.org).

Letter from Chief Executive to Treasury

I write on behalf of The National Association of Retired Police Officers [NARPO] in relation to the Government response to the consultation on Public Sector Pension schemes as a result of the McCloud and Sargeant cases. Whilst we generally welcome the Government's decision to implement the Deferred Choice Underpin option and are pleased that as a result retired members of schemes will be given the same choice as those still serving, the response indicates that retired officers will not be able to make that choice until Legislation is introduced and that choice will be delayed up to October 2023.

This in our view is clearly unacceptable; it means that as a consequence retired members will have to wait over another two years and live on a pension that is lower than it should now be because of the discrimination already identified.

Government intends to give those who retire prior to October 2023 the option of which scheme to take their benefits from, yet those already retired will not be given that opportunity, which appears unfair and could potentially cause further unfavourable treatment on the grounds of age. The Government intend to resolve Immediate Detriment cases as soon as they occur but do not intend to deal with those suffering an ongoing Detriment until a much later point in time.

This in our view is quite frankly unacceptable, and we cannot see any logical reason why those already retired cannot have their cases dealt with as soon as practicable without having to wait until 2023. The Government have decided on the remedy, and there is no reason why retired officers should continue to be discriminated against by delaying the implementation of that remedy.

We are very disappointed at this aspect of the proposed solution particularly as the initial consultation indicated that those already retired would be prioritised within the remedy. By delaying implementing the remedy for retired officers this also creates and stores up a further potential problem for those who in the meantime unfortunately die or divorce before the implementation date in 2023, and it also means that those who retired on an ill health pension in the reformed scheme should by default not have their ill health pension reviewed until such time as they can make their choice of legacy or reformed scheme benefits. Those who have retired on an ill health pension are being treated less favourably than those who retire in the meantime and in our view this could amount to less favourable treatment because of their disability.

The Executive Summary of the consultation document included:

Under either approach, those who have already retired and/or received a pension award will be asked to make their choice as soon as practicable after the changes are implemented. The position they choose would be applied retrospectively back to the date the award was made.

The Government response document includes in the executive Summary: In the meantime, members will be deemed to have accrued benefits in their legacy schemes, rather than reformed schemes, for the remedy period, until they make that choice. Does this apply to all scheme members including retired members? If not, then why not? If it does apply to them, then all retired officers should be given the choice immediately and not at some future point in 2023.

The response also includes:

2.99 The majority of members in scope of this consultation will not retire until after the DCU is implemented and will be given their choice at the point of retirement, as detailed above. However, the government recognises that significant numbers of members have already retired and received pension benefits in respect of relevant periods service or will do so between now and the introduction of the DCU by October 2023.

2.100 As set out in the consultation, the government accepts that members who moved to the reformed pension schemes on or after 1 April 2015 and have subsequently retired, already have an entitlement to be treated as a member of their legacy scheme for the remedy period if they wish.

In recognition of

this, the government will work with schemes to develop processes to give effect to this entitlement for those who retire before the introduction of the DCU. Where possible, schemes will also seek to offer reformed scheme members in this position who retire before October 2023 a choice of legacy or reformed scheme benefits for the relevant period at retirement. Once the complex issues described in paragraphs A.8 to A.12 have been resolved, schemes will also seek to revisit cases of reformed scheme members who have already retired ahead of the introduction of the DCU, where, and to the extent, this is possible. This process will be administratively complex and individual schemes will set out their plans for beginning to process such cases in due course.

This proposal in our view treats those retiring as from today more favourably than those already retired, and gives them the choice of higher pension payments, whilst those already retired will have their

choice delayed until some future date possibly as far as October 2023 and beyond.

We do not accept that the calculations required for those already retired are significantly more complex than those required for those retiring from today and ask that you reconsider your proposals for resolving the continuing discrimination being suffered by retired officers.

I look forward to your earliest response on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

This issue is ongoing a response when received from the Treasury will be put onto the Branch website and or Newsletter once received.

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION 23rd MARCH 2021

Circulated to NEC, Branch Secretaries, Welfare Contacts and HQ

Following on from our Partnership launch last year with Marie Curie, myself and Carly Scott have been in discussions with them regarding a National Day of Reflection on 23rd March. The purpose of the day is as below (the wording is from them)-

Since the first lockdown began in 2020, hundreds of thousands of people have died. Too many lives have been cut short and millions have been bereaved.

Behind the statistics and whatever the cause, every death has been devastating for the people left behind. Many have been unable to properly say goodbye to their loved ones, comfort or even hug each other.

As a nation, we need to acknowledge the millions in silent pain. So join us on 23 March, the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, for a National Day of Reflection.

Let's come together and reflect on this tragic loss of life, show support for people who've been bereaved and celebrate the lives of all those who've died.

There are still tough times ahead, as the death toll continues to rise. So whatever your background, whatever your beliefs, and whatever you've been through, please join us for our first National Day of Reflection.

This annual day will give us all time to pause and think about this unprecedented loss we're facing, and support each other through grief in the years to come.

NARPO have agreed to support the Day, as all our Members will have been affected in some way by the Pandemic.

There are a number of voluntary organisations, groups and Police Forces which are also supporting the Day and, it is hoped, will have national exposure in the media.

These include, BME Voices, Bereaved Covid 19 Families, BAMEstream , The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, Opening Doors London , The Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association UK

Yellow Hearts , Church of England, Police Federation, Metropolitan Police and 21 other Police Forces in England and Wales

NARPO's involvement would be to support the Day, in the run up to it and on the Day itself. This will be through our communications channels, such as our website, social media and messages to Branches.

There will be Toolkits supplied by Marie Curie to support the Day and these should be available soon. The electronic version will be emailed to Branches, while a hard copy will be sent by HQ to each Branch. Branches can then circulate information to their Members and undertake any activities they wish to do in their local area.

You can find out more information on their website at mariecurie.org.uk/dayofreflection

POLICE CARE

From: Dave Blundell <dave.blundell@policecare.org.uk>

As you are aware, [Police Care UK](https://policecare.org.uk) is a regeneration of The Police Dependants Trust (est. 1966), and I would highlight that it operates to assist serving and **retired police officers** or police staff, (or their immediate families) across all UK police forces (including Scotland and Northern Ireland). We provide emotional, practical, and financial assistance to individuals within the police family who have been '**harmed as a result of policing**', and are in crisis. Because we receive no state financial support, we are able to be an entirely independent and confidential organisation.

To be clear, assistance we provide is freely available to our beneficiaries, and we have no membership or joining fees. Assistance falls broadly into either financial assistance (grants), or psychological assistance (counselling), although we can assist in other ways if

appropriate. By way of example, the oldest individual we have assisted recently was over 80 years of age, so we are very much here for veteran officers and staff, particularly as resources which were available to them as serving officers are perhaps no longer so.

I understand that most NARPO branches now have a wellbeing officer, so I write to introduce myself to them as our Engagement Officer, and I am available to them as a direct contact within Police Care UK (from an organisational perspective rather than for individuals). I'm also a retired police officer, having served over 32 years, and a NARPO member.

Although I already enjoy a good relationship with many NARPO branch secretaries, I'm always keen to strengthen our relationship with other branches, and so my contact details can be circulated, for the benefit of all their members. I would encourage the wellbeing officers and/or secretaries to perhaps make contact with me at their convenience, to discuss how we might be of assistance, or simply to establish contact details, and understand what we do.

I've attached are a few items which your members might find useful;

- Our Generic introductory leaflet
- Our Assistance Grants Guide

More information is available on our website here; <https://www.policecare.org.uk/> and it's also worthy of note that we are part of the Police Charities UK group, and more information can be found here; <http://www.policecharitiesuk.uk/charities-table/> . Part of what we do is research, and more information can be found here; <https://www.cam.ac.uk/policeptsd> .

Your members may also wish to bear in mind that I can also deliver a presentation on Police Care UK (via MS Teams or otherwise), to an appropriate meeting group, if this is something your members might like us to do.

The most important thing, is that people simply know we are here for them.

Once again, I look forward to working together to strengthen our relationship, so please let me know if you need anything more.

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 are all aware postage is due to increase shortly to unreasonable levels.

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.

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 16th November 2021 at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance Sittingbourne subject to Covid restrictions being totally lifted.

B.T. Goldfarb Branch Secretary