

N.A.R.P.O

Medway and District Branch

Winter 2021

Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce Goldfarb
7 Saracen Fields
Walderslade
Chatham
ME5 9DG

Telephone: 01634.683034
E-mail: goldfarb65@btinternet.com
Branch website: www.medwaynarpo.org



Due to the relaxation of Covid rules the half yearly meeting of the Branch will be held at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne (opposite side of road to Avenue Theatre), at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th November 2021. I would ask all members attending to wear a face mark when entering the building.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Obituaries
3. Chairman's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Any other business

POLICE PENSION INCREASE

The September 2021 CPI (Consumer price Index) has been announced and stands at 3.1% and therefore, Police Pensions will rise by this amount in April 2022.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Winter is fast approaching, and it is hoped that with the success of Covid Vaccinations and the booster programme that is currently underway together with the Influenza vaccination programme that serious illness resulting in hospitalisation will be reduced and any further measures will not be required. Unfortunately, infection rates for Covid are still far too high and hospital admissions and deaths are increasing albeit at a far less level than previously encountered. However, with recent Government Ministers telling us rates could increase to 100,000 a day in Winter and logically deaths will also increase and once again it looks as if the Government are going to increase further measures when again it will be too late. It would therefore appear that this Government have learnt no lessons in the fight against this deadly

virus. The booster vaccination programme appears to have stalled somewhat and from being world leaders in this field we are fast becoming one of the worst in the Europe.

The Triple Lock on pensions has been withheld for a 12-month period and therefore with the increases in energy prices, petrol, and diesel together with increasing prices in shops many pensioners face a very tough Winter as do many low-income families. Fortunately, Police pensioners although not well off tend to suffer a lesser impact than most but they still will have a reduction in their standard of living. It is hoped that after the 12 months have elapsed the Government will as promised to, re-instate the Triple Lock but owing to previous U-turn's this remains to be seen. NARPO HQ have asked that NARPO take up this issue with Government and many Branches have expressed the view that in current economic situation and the fact that cost of Covid epidemic must be offset then Police pensioners may look somewhat selfish in view of their financial situations, and it would be far better to see if the Triple Lock is continued after the 12-month halt and then take up the issue should they decide not to re-instate. It should be borne in mind that the Triple Lock has long been talked about by Government with a view to ending it. If members can give some thought to this issue as it will be discussed at the Meeting.

Once again Christmas Gifts of £50 will be delivered to all Branch widows in December by the Secretary. Owing to no meeting be held in the Spring 2021 the Committee have all agreed that this payment continue this year.

I would also ask that if any member has difficulties due to Covid or any other issues that they contact the Secretary to see if anything can be done to alleviate any problems. We are after all a welfare organisation and are here to help and assist!

The Branch would like to invite any member attending this Meeting if they wish to arrive a 6pm and we will organise a meal at the Appleyard Restaurant. This can be either a curry or any other option on the menu. The Branch will pay £5 towards the cost of this meal and the member will pay the rest. Most meals are at a cost of £9.95 and it is hoped that more members will attend this Meeting. Any member wishing to attend must contact Secretary in advance so that arrangements can be made with the Appleyard Restaurant for numbers.

Finally, may I wish all members of the Branch and their families a Happy Christmas and hopefully a much better 2022, as it remains to be seen if Government can sort out issues with Covid, food and other supplies.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following a very long time with 'Lockdown' due to Covid 19 Restrictions, it has been a very difficult period with Meetings having to be cancelled, including our first Medway & District NARPO Meeting which was going to be held at our new venue, the Appleyard Club, in the Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, where there are better facilities, including off street parking and for the benefit of members with mobility difficulties everything is on ground floor level, including a bar and provision for food.

Hopefully we will have our Winter Meeting there on Tuesday 16th November 2021 commencing at 7.30pm and those wishing to come along earlier at 6.00pm hot food from the

restaurant will be laid on at approx. £10.00 per head with a £5.00p subsidy being paid by the Branch.

Although the Quarterly Kent Branch Meetings of NARPO had been cancelled at the Kent Police Training College Maidstone, there were two Meetings held via Zoom, which I attended, but there was not a lot to report, except the main things of interest to members were the new Kent Police Memorial Garden, which had been handed over by KCC Architect's to the Chief Constable. This is sited just behind the entrance of the gates leading up to the Kent Police Training College at Maidstone, as we all remember as the 'Old Training School'.

Secondly the forthcoming opening of the Kent Police Museum (which opened last week and featured on ITV Meridian News at 6pm) which looks very professional and well worth a visit. This is situated at the old Faversham Police Station, Church Road, Faversham. More details on the Branch Website.

As you may already know that the Kent Police Headquarters has moved from Sutton Road Maidstone to its new location at Ebbsfleet, near Gravesend, which is situated on the left hand side of the road leading to Ebbsfleet International Rail Station.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Jim Raymont who passed away recently, who was one of our longer serving members of Medway & District NARPO who regularly attended our Branch Meetings. He was a gentleman and contributed his opinions at the Meetings and took an interest in the Branch. He was also on the Management Committee. He will be sadly missed by us all. Both Bruce Goldfarb, Peter Simmonds and myself attended Jim's Funeral in September at Charing Crematorium where there was a good turnout, also some lovely tributes given to Jim and rightly so, as he was a TRUE GENTLEMAN to the end. RIP.

TREASURERS REPORT

The 2020 financial audit of the Branch was submitted and agreed with NARPO HQ and the financial condition of the Branch is good and as of January 1st 2021 there was £8084.35. All monies owing has been paid and no outstanding monies are owed. The Branch agreed to again pay widows a £50 Christmas gift and this will be delivered to all those who live locally by the Secretary in December and by post to those out of area. Honorarium for Chairman and Secretary remain the same a payment to web provider remain the same and will be paid in December.

RESIGNATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CEO Mr Steve Edwards tendered his resignation on 5th July 2021, and this was accepted by The NEC Secretariat. In the interim the Deputy CEO Mr Alan Lees will fulfil the role in an acting capacity.

DEATH OF LIFE MEMBER

It is with great sadness that Mr James Raymont (Branch Life Member) former Detective Sergeant 1981 passed away following a short illness on 17th August 2021. Jim as he was known was only two months short of his 100th Birthday. He was a long standing and valuable member of the Branch and served on the Committee for many years. Jim was a highly respected organist and played at many venues including Canterbury Cathedral. He was

highly respected and much loved by all who had the honour and pleasure to meet him. Jim was a true gentleman and will be sadly missed by us all and our heartfelt sympathy go to his family and friends for his tragic loss.

OBITUARIES

Former DS3893 Melvyn Wood	Died 21/2/21	Last served Maidstone
Former PC4737 Keith Howells	Died 15/2/21	Last served Canterbury
Former PC2751 Brian Mark	Died 15/2/21	Last served Gravesend
Former PC2399 Morris Knight	Died 1/3/21	Last served Canterbury
Former C/Insp2415 Michael Aldworth	Died 4/3/21	Last served Whistable
Former PC2292 Kenneth Larcombe	Died 17/2/21	Last served Ashford
Former Insp2194 John Brent	Died 10/2/21	Last served Nackington
Former PC5630 Roger Pettit	Died 25/3/21	Last served Sittingbourne
Former PC7373 Karen Withers	Died 28/3/21	Last served FHQ
Former PS3799 Peter Richardson	Died 22/3/21	Last served Ramsgate
Former PC2226 Clifford Impett	Died 22/3/21	Last served Rochester
Former Insp4560 Anthony Dewing	Died 13/4/21	Last served Gravesend
Former C/Insp4073 Michael Footman	Died 1/4/21	Last served Gillingham
Former PC4527 Geoffrey Horrocks	Died 23/4/21	Last served Maidstone
Former PC5428 Andrew Lewis	Died 19/3/21	Last served Sittingbourne
Former PC1448 Robert Town	Died 16/6/21	Last served Bethersden
Former PS5236 Graham Carroll	Died 10/5/21	Last served Dover
Former PC9710 Kim Burgess	Died 6/6/21	Last served Margate
Former D/Insp5509 David Lawson	Died 13/6/21	Last served Thanet
Former PS4320 Gordon Foster	Died 12/6/21	Last served Traffic
Former PC4836 Kenneth Ronaldson	Died 14/7/21	Last served Tunbridge Wells
Former PC2504 Cyril Hemsley	Died 15/7/21	Last served Sellindge
Former PC5166 Leslie Harris	Died 6/8/21	Last served Broadstairs
Former PS2776 Kenneth Rigden	Died 27/7/21	Last served Thanet
Former PC6744 Anne Hitchin	Died 20/7/21	Last served Broadstairs
Former DS1981 James Raymont	Died 17/7/21	Last served Faversham
Former Supt1935 Frederick Booth	Died 29/8/21	Last served FHQ
Former PC3765 John Burn	Died 2/9/21	Last served Dover
Former PC6250 Michael Page	Died 18/9/21	Last served Tunbridge Wells
Former PC6983 Nigel Bodiam	Died 1/10/21	Last served Dover
Former Insp3207 Anthony Ralph	Died 28/9/21	Last served Hythe

KENT POLICE MUSEUM

The Police Museum situated at The Old Faversham Police Station, Church Street, Faversham, officially opened on 14th October 2021 and booking can be made online to visit at museum@kent.police.uk.

NO 5 REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Meeting will be held at Police Federation Offices in Leatherhead, Surrey on Saturday 26th March 2022 when the Chairman and Secretary will attend. Hopefully if the

situation remains the same this will enable Branches to attend in person following recent Covid restrictions.

WIDOWS PENSIONS/REGULATION C9 POLICE PENSIONS REGULATIONS 1987

As you are aware, NARPO have been supporting the ongoing legal challenge to Regulation C9 of the Police Pensions Regulations 1987.

Regulation C9 prevents a Widow or Widower of a former serving Police Officer to claim their loved one's Police Pension after their death, where the Widow or Widower decides to cohabit or remarry. The view of NARPO and all its members has always been that Regulation C9 discriminates against those Widows or Widowers who find themselves in that situation. NARPO's view, based upon legal advice, is that Regulation C9 also breaches the fundamental Human Rights of the Widow or Widower and their families.

The legal challenge continues. There was a Hearing in May 2021. Since that Hearing those individuals who are raising this issue with the Court were ordered to provide certain documents to the Court setting out the claims that they bring. The Secretary of State responded to those documents. On 20th August 2021, the documents were considered by the Court and a decision of the Court was handed down by His Honour Judge Sephton QC, sitting as a Judge of the High Court in Manchester.

HHJ Sephton QC determined that the claims brought by the three individuals who now challenge the legality of Regulation C9 can and should be allowed to proceed to a full and final Hearing. That Hearing will now take place in Manchester on 5th and 6th April 2022. As well as our Solicitors and Counsel who represent the individuals bringing the challenge, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the Secretary of State for the Home Department will also be represented at Court, through their Lawyers.

Significantly the Court allowed the claims of both the Widows and Widowers who feel unable to remarry or cohabit because of the financial implications of Regulation C9 and those Widows and Widowers who have remarried or cohabited, who now endure continuing financial losses because of Regulation C9, to have their claims determined by the Court. What that means is that if the claims are successful and the Court does determine that Regulation C9 should no longer stand, then all individuals who are affected daily by the operation of this unjust Regulation will be affected by this legal ruling.

Currently our Legal Team are preparing for the final Hearing. There is a lot of work for the Legal Team to do now, to prepare for the Hearing. NARPO and the Police Federation are and will continue to work closely with the Legal Team and the individuals bringing this claim, to make sure that the claim is fully prepared and that all issues that need to be put to the Court at the final Hearing, are put before the Court in the best possible way.

We will of course update you closer to the time about any developments in the claim and the arrangements for the final Hearing. At this stage, however, we can at least now be confident that, for the first time, there will be a full Judicial determination about the legality of Regulation C9. We and all our members together with all serving Police Officers say that Regulation C9 is and always was, discriminatory, unfair and in breach of families' fundamental Human Rights. Those claims will now be determined by the High Court in April 2022.

VICTIM SUPPORT REQUEST

Chris Collins (Force Diversity Officer) has asked that we circulate this request for volunteers for Victim Support to any member that may be interested in this. Direct contact can be made through email Kay.Massey@victimsupport.org.uk.

Volunteers are essential to the support we give to victims of crime. As a Victim Support volunteer, we will train you to support victims from the first time you meet them until they feel strong enough to move forward on their own. You will listen to their concerns and make sure that their needs are met. For more information and Application form please Log on to www.victimsupport.org.uk Under "Get involved", click on "Volunteer" to see the roles on offer in Kent. What will motivate you to become a volunteer? www.victimsupport.org.uk
Registered charity number: 298028: Registered address: Victim Support, 1 Bridge Street, Derby. DE1 1HZ.

VACANCY FOR BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBER

Owing to the sad passing of Mr James Raymont a vacancy has arisen on the Branch Committee and Mr Robert Morris has expressed an interest in taking up this position and I would ask that any other member interested in the position notify the Secretary and ensure that you have a seconder at the Meeting.

BRANCH WEBSITE

Members who have access to the Branch website at www.medwaynarpo.org are advised to check this regularly as all up to date information is contained on this site. Any member not able to do this can telephone the Secretary at any time to find out latest information.

MEMBERS CHANGE OF DETAILS

All members are reminded to contact the secretary should they change any details so these can be put onto NARPO database to ensure they receive correspondence. Please ensure email addresses and telephone numbers we have are accurate.

WELFARE & BENEVOLENT FUND

The Branch runs a welfare section and any member that encounters problems should contact the Branch Secretary for assistance and it should be noted that all matters will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Branch welfare officers are Bruce Goldfarb and Terry Lynch.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Mr Terry Lynch

Vice Chairman Mr Stephen Bull

Secretary/Treasurer Mr Bruce Goldfarb

Committee Members

Mr Christopher Mayes, Mr Maurice Baggott, Mr Frank Gallagher, Vacant

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Should any member have any other item they wish to raise at the Meeting they should notify the Secretary in order that the item can be researched prior to the Meeting.

DATES OF 2022 MEETINGS

The Branch Meetings for 2022 are as follows and will be held at The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne ME10 4DE commencing at 7.30pm.

- 1. AGM & Spring 2022 Meeting Tuesday 22nd March 2022*
- 2. Winter 2022 Meeting Tuesday 15th November 2022*

Bruce Goldfarb Branch Secretary