**PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONERS’ COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONERS’ COUNCIL, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 2017 AT 2 PM IN ROOMS 1 & 2, HAMILTON HOUSE, MABLEDON PLACE, LONDON WC1H 9BD**

**Present:**

Suzanne Beckley Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Mike Duggan Civil Service Pensioners Alliance

John McGiveron Civil Service Pensioners Alliance - Scotland

Don Makepeace Civil Service Pensioners Alliance

Lisa Ray (General Secretary) Civil Service Pensioners’ Alliance/PSPC

Brian Sturtevant (Chair) Civil Service Pensioners’ Alliance

John Pitt-Brooke Forces Pension Society

David King Min of Defence Police Retired Officers’ Association

Francis Byrne National Association of Retired Fire-Fighters

Steve Edwards (Treasurer) National Association of Retired Police Officers

Ian Potter National Association of Retired Police Officers

Nick Kirby National Union of Teachers

Carole Regan (Vice-Chair) National Union of Teachers

John Augoustis Prospect

Andrew Ruffhead Prospect

David Brown RPOAS

Alan Hall Retired Prison Governors’ Association

Jan Thompson Retired Prison Governors’ Association

Brendan McGlone Retired Teachers’ Association - Northern Ireland

Irene Bates SSTA

Linda Richards UNISON

Philip Burgess University and College Union

Patricia Rode University and College Union

**Secretariat**

George Tickner Independent Examiner (Accounts)

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Delegates and officers around the table introduced themselves.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

David Binnie Association of School and College Leaders

Alan Bilyard BBC Pensioners’ Association

Mike Beard National Association of Head Teachers

Malcolm Booth National Federation of Occupational Pensioners

Stephen Grounds Retired HM Inspectors of Schools in England & Wales

John Walker UNISON

**2. MINUTES**

Amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4 May 2016 were proposed and **agreed** as follows:-

Attendance list: John McGiveron - add ‘Scotland’ after ‘Civil Service Pensioners’ Alliance’

Item 8: first sentence – delete ‘officers’ and ‘in ex-officio capacity’

The minutes were then **agreed** as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

 **3. MATTERS ARISING**

The General Secretary (GS) reported that arrangements had been made for the Shadow Pensions Minister to attend the AGM as guest speaker, but due to the General Election being called, he had withdrawn his acceptance. Despite attempts to find alternatives from the three main parties, no alternative had been found.

**4. ACCOUNTS**

The Treasurer reported that the financial statements of the PSPC to year end 31 March 2017, comprising the profit & loss standard and balance sheet, had been circulated with agenda items. The balance of £10,846.12 had decreased slightly since the issue of the document due to payments made. George Tickner, the independent examiner, reported that he was content with the accounts, adding that they were in excellent order. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed and **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that George Tickner be again appointed as independent examiner.

The Treasurer stated that not all constituent organisations had paid subscription fees, and it was **noted** that some organisations had not paid since 2015 (FCO Association, GMB and Unison).The Treasurer reported on the declining funds, which had necessitated an increase in fees. He therefore, on behalf of the EC, proposed motion 1 as follows:

*`This AGM endorses the proposal that subscription fees should be increased by 50% to meet the resource costs of providing the PSPC secretariat.*

*However, given the agreement to phase this increase at the 2016 AGM, it is proposed that the fees are increased by 25% with effect from 1st April 2017, with a further 25% increase with effect from 1st April 2018. Thereafter, the intention is to revert to an increase in line with public sector pensions”*

The motion was seconded by John McGiveron. David Brown suggested that phasing in the increase was not necessary if the money was needed before the General Election and proposed that that the motion should be amended and subscription fees be increased by 50%. There was some debate but no agreement, as some present had already cleared a 25% increase with their Boards. The vote was taken and motion was **carried** unanimously. The Chair added that the constitution would be amended in line with the terms of the motion.

**5. GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The GS stated that much had happened since the last AGM and referred to her General Secretary’s Report 2017, circulated earlier, which dealt with a number of important issues, including leaving the EU and the calling of a General Election on 8 June 2017.

The GS said that the EC had discussed in detail the updating of the 2015 Manifesto, to be finalised over the following week and circulated to all constituent organisations. It was the intention that a covering letter, and where appropriate, the PSPC General Election Manifesto, could be sent by members of constituent organisations to prospective parliamentary candidates, to draw attention to the following four major issues:

* The triple lock, a fair level of state pension and method of indexation for public sector pensions
* Universal pensioner benefits
* Pensions for life
* Brexit - uprating of state pensions

The GS added that the manifesto and letter would be uploaded to the website, as well as being emailed out. The GS took questions on the EC proposals, and the inclusion of a fifth point on intergenerational fairness was raised. She explained that adding a fifth item would mean that the focus would be lost, but it was **noted** that the manifesto could be amended to strengthen the policy position on intergenerational fairness and the importance of maintaining the value of pensions for future generations.

The GS supplemented her report on other item headings. She thanked delegates for attending the meeting and their continued support, especially on the carriage of Motion 2 on subscriptions, which would enable the PSPC to continue with its work. Regarding the recruitment of new constituent organisations, the GS said that she would welcome any appropriate suggestions from those present.

The GS concluded her report by stating that the EC had met four times over the past year, and thanked the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Executive Committee for their support and assistance over this period.

**6. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

It was **noted** that the constitution would be amended on the carriage of motion 1 above.

**7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-18**

It was **noted** that the following officers were elected unopposed:

Chair Brian Sturtevant (CSPA)

Vice-Chair Carole Regan (NUT)

General Secretary Lisa Ray (CSPA)

Treasurer Steve Edwards (NARPO)

**8. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017-18**

It was **noted that** the following were elected unopposed to serve on the Executive Committee:

Philip Burgess UCU

Mike Duggan CSPA

Nick Kirby NUT

John Pitt-Brooke CB (FPS)

Ian Potter NARPO

Andrew Ruffhead Prospect

**9. PSPC ADMINISTRATION**

Motion 1, proposed under this item, had been dealt with under item 4 - Accounts.

The Chair said that the NUT had continued to assist with the provision of meeting rooms and that CSPA provided, on a part-time basis, administrative support.

**10.** Nick Kirby presented the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee:

*This Annual General Meeting (AGM) welcomes the decision of the Executive Committee to consult with constituent organisations, by way of* ***Campaigns Update 63/2016****, on which future measures of inflation should be used for the indexation of pensions.*

*This AGM further notes that the outcome of that consultation was that, on balance, the PSPC should, in view of the decision of the National Statistician to make CPI (H) the ONS’s preferred measure of inflation from March 2017 and the recent consistently higher recorded rates for CPI (H) over those of CPI, press the Government to accept CPI (H) as the indexation for use in annual pay increases, along with other pensioner organisations, and endorses that approach.*

*In addition, the AGM notes the promising work being undertaken by the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and others on progressing a new Household Inflation Index (HII) and the endorsement of those efforts by the National Statistician; the AGM welcome these developments an instructs the Executive Committee to maintain a watching brief on the work on the HII and to consult with constituent organisations and/or the AGM when there is clarity on the status of the HII.*

In presenting the motion, Nick Kirby explained the background to the development of CPI (H) which tracks housing costs by using the rental equivalent. He said that the ONS had made the CPI (H) its preferred method of inflation measurement.

CPI (H) had been consistently higher than CPI.

He added that HII is a measure of Household costs and payments. It is not yet known if the HII will be higher than CPI (H)

Phillip Burgess clarified that inflation measures could be thought of as helping to establish how much more money would be needed to maintain a level standard of living from year to year. He thought that CPI (H) would be slightly better as an interim measure but that HII should be more accurate.

The motion was seconded by Philip Burgess and on being put to a vote, **carried** unanimously.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair suggested that attempts again be made in 2018 to secure a guest speaker and that it be left to the EC to decide who should be invited. He also said that it appeared that most delegates had been able to arrive at the meeting early and suggested that the AGM in 2018 commence at 1.30 pm.

Delegates thanked the EC for keeping such a good eye on pension issues, stated that it was important to keep in contact with other pensioner groups around the UK and disappointment was expressed at the lack of women on the Committee. It was suggested that this important point be mentioned in the next Campaign Update in order to encourage more women to come forward.

The Chair thanked delegates for attending the AGM; he thanked the General Secretary and Executive Committee for all their hard work and CSPA administrative staff for their support over the past year.

**12. DATE OF 2018 AGM**

This was **noted** as likely to be **Wednesday, 2 May 2018**, **commencing at 1.30**

**GS Note-** Later changed to **Tuesday 15th May 2018 commencing at 1.30**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3 pm.