

BRITISH TRANSPORT PENSIONERS FEDERATION

CHESTER BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT ST. WERBURGH'S SOCIAL CLUB

ON TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2021

Chairman / Secretary Mr. B. Ingram. Hon. Treasurer Mr. P. Cook. Hon. Speaker's Secretary Mr. J. Whittingham.

The Chairman welcomed 26 members to the meeting.

Apologies for non attendance received from 4 Members

Item	Subject
01-21	<u>Apologies</u> Mr D. Brumpton. Mr W. Johnson. Mrs L. Hurd & Mr W. Martin.
02-21	<u>Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting</u> The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed - Mr. P. Cook. Seconded - Mr. N. Cadman
03-21	<u>Matters Arising</u> There were no matters arising.
04-21	<u>Hon. Chairman/Secretary's Report</u> As we have not held an AGM since April 2019 this report covers the two years to April 2021. Branch membership now stands at 96. We have 1 new member in 2019 Norman Meyer who has been welcomed to the Branch and we hope he will continue to attend and enjoy our monthly meetings. Fourteen deaths have been reported since April 2019. Unfortunately we do not have exact dates for most of these as our meetings were suspended from April 2020 to September 2021 due to the Covid Pandemic. Condolences from the Branch have been extended to the families where appropriate.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining our Branch please encourage them to do so.

Attendance at our monthly meeting had remained steady at around 30 members until March 2020, when meetings were suspended. When we restarted in September 13 members attended and in October 21. We hope numbers will increase as people get back to normal.

We must thank our speaker's secretary for his efforts in finding speakers for our meetings and hope he may be able to resume doing so in the near future.

Our last annual lunch was held at the Queen's Hotel in January 2020 when 50 members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal, and out thanks go to our late President Bill Newman and Christine for arranging and ensuring the success of this function.

It has been suggested that as we have to pay for this room for our meetings, and as this cost has not been fully covered by the £1 members pay each month, for the last two meetings, we should look for a new venue. With the possibility being the Town Crier opposite the station who would not charge for the room, however the drawback to this is the room is upstairs with no lift and would therefore be inaccessible for anyone disabled. Also members would have to pay for their tea/coffee possibly £2.50 also for parking and if a speaker needed a projector or screen we would have to provide it.

My preference would be to maintain the excellent relationship we have with this club and if necessary to increase our monthly payment to £2 to cover any shortfall in paying for this room, and maintain free tea/coffee and biscuits. I would like your comments.

In December 2019 Christmas Cards were sent to 33 Widows of former members and members with long term illness which led to us being informed of 3 deaths and 2 Widows not being at the address we have (presumably deceased)

The numbers for 2020 were 28 cards sent and no notification of any deaths.

As your representative I attended the AGM of the National Federation on Thursday 14th October when the National Officers were re-elected en bloc until the next AGM in March 2022. Also we were informed a number of Branches had closed or were planning to close due to their inability to fill the Branch Officers positions.

Mr Tony Cotgreave gave a brief overview of Pension matters. The RPMI and RAILPEN will, from 27th September, be collectively known as RAILPEN and this new branding will appear over the coming months.

The asset value of the Railway Pension funds remains strong and has increased during this year.

As from October the larger pension schemes such as R.P.S. are required to submit a climate return which basically outlines the climate impact of the Pension Scheme ranging from our investments to the way in which we

	<p>conduct our day to day business. Over the summer RAILPEN committed to having a net zero investment portfolio by 2050 or sooner and has detailed plan has been well received by the wider industry and other commentators. The Railway Pension increases in April 2022 are aligned to the preceding September CPI figure, which was 3.1%. Agreement to pay this figure required the relevant statutory instrument being signed in March 2022. The basic state pension increase will be the higher of 2.5% or CPI given that the link to the third part of the triple lock (rise in average earnings) has been temporarily suspended for 2022 given the "one off" post Covid bounce in average earnings of around 8%. Therefore, the increase will be 3.1%</p> <p>In conclusion I would like to thank those who provide our refreshments each month and the other branch officers and committee for their support and you members for your attendance. Without you the Branch would not exist.</p> <p>Barry Ingram. Chairman/Secretary</p> <p>The report was accepted Proposed – Mr. T. Cotgreave Seconded Mr. P Cook</p>
05.21	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>The Treasurer reported that our financial situation remains satisfactory. Although attendance at our last two meetings had not covered our costs. This is sustainable in the short term as we have no speakers booked, and he would recommend, if we continue at this venue, that we increase our monthly charge to £2 from January 2022. We hope that as people get back to normal attendances will return to pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Philip Cook, Treasurer</p> <p>Report Accepted. Proposed by Mr. N. Cadman Seconded by Miss B. Hesketh</p>
06.21	<p><u>Examiners Report</u></p> <p>The Hon. Treasurer's books and supporting documents have been examined and found to be in good order.</p> <p>Tony Cotgreave – Examiner</p> <p>Report Accepted Proposed by Mr. A. Weston Seconded by Miss B. Hesketh</p>

07-21

Speakers Secretary's Report

The Speakers Secretary reported that at the moment many speakers are reluctant to commit to any engagements due to continuing apprehension about the Covid 19 Pandemic. However we will continue to try to arrange our meetings.

He was thanked for his continuing efforts.

John Whittingham - Speakers Secretary

Report Accepted

Proposed by Mr. B. Ingram Seconded by Mr. A. Weston

08-21

Election of Officers

Due to the death of our President Mr Bill Newman we have a vacancy for that Honorary position.

In recognition of his services to the Federation over many years as a member of the Railway Pension Management Committee and a Trustee of the RPMI, and also a member of the Federations National Committee I would like to nominate Mr Tony Cotgreave for this position, if he will accept it.

Mr Cotgreave indicated his assent.

Mr John Whittingham indicated that he would like to take this position as it may help him in engaging speakers. Following a show of hands Mr Cotgreave was confirmed as our Branch President. Mr Whittingham accepted a position as a Branch Vice President.

All present Branch Officers and committee members are prepared to stand for re-election. These are:-

Chairman	Barry Ingram
Secretary	Barry Ingram
Asst. Secretary	Vacancy
Treasurer	Philip Cook
Asst. Treasurer	Vacancy
Speakers Secretary	John Whittingham

Committee: Alan Weston

If any member feels they could fill any of these positions they would be most welcome.

Proposed Mr P. Cook Seconded Mr N. Cadman

09-21	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>A lengthy discussion took place over the suggestion made by Mr Whittingham that we should consider whether in view of the cost we should move to the venue for our meetings to the Town Crier Hotel, opposite Chester Station, as they would not make a charge for the use of room. Following a lively discussion of the 'fors and againsts' Mr Whittingham withdrew his suggestion and it was decided we would not change our venue but we would increase our monthly payment to £2 with effect from January 2022.</p>
10-21	<p><u>Date of next Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 11am at St Werburgh's Social Club</p> <p>Items for the Agenda and nominations for Branch Officers should be notified to the Secretary before the meeting.</p>