

HALCROW PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting

Held online between 12 April and 20 April 2015

Present:

Stephen Brichieri-Colombi
Malcolm Bennett
John Ratsey
Jane Tordoff
Brian Finney
Jon Bateman
Chris Fleming
Robin Clark

Honorary Chairman
Honorary Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Web Master
Honorary Secretary
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member
Committee Member

Phil Alexander
David Birch
Warren Bradley
Eric Cooper
John Deighton
Mort Deas
Sue Edwards
Heather Foster
David Grigsby
Rod Hacker
Martin Harrison
Tony Hoyle
Donald Holliday
Jon Jacobson
Valerie Jordan
Tony Key
Nigel King

Tim Kingham
Nick Lockett
Ian McFarlane
Tim McQue
Jerry Neville
Ian Rose
N Smart
Andrew Scarth
Howard Smith
John C Sreeves
Vic Scott
Justin Southwell
Tim Sabben-Clare
Brian Thomas
Peter von Lany
Dick Wilkinson
John Wotton

The total number of people attending numbered 43 well in excess of that needed to form a quorum.

1 **OPENING REMARKS**

On behalf of the committee SB-C thanked all those who were able to join in the AGM on-line (full text available at) which is only accessible to paid-up members.

He also thanked the Committee Members for making the necessary preparations, including the most recent Newsletter No 11.

In accordance with the constitution, SB-C will be standing down as Chairman at the end of this meeting, but thereafter will continue to serve the Committee and the wider interests of the HPA as best he can.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Simon Allen.

3 **ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF AGM HELD FROM 28 APRIL TO 6 MAY 2014**

These were accepted by those attending the AGM

4 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

JT submitted the Annual Report of the Committee for the Period to 5 April 2015.

(full text available at

These were accepted by those attending the AGM

5 PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of 31st March 2015 there were 159 HPA members. Of these, 41 have still to renew their membership² and one member is to withdraw funds from HPS so no longer wishes to continue with the HPA.

These were accepted by those attending the AGM

Description	Amount		
	2013/14	2015	Total
Brought Forward	£2,695.54		
Subscriptions from members			
- Bank Transfers		£1,208.38	
- Paypal transfers		226.84	
- Funds in Paypal Account		9.46	
- Cash/Cheques		30.00	
		£1,474.68	
Expenditure			
- Payments to OPA		£40.00	
- Website hosting		0	
		£40.00	
Bank balance at 15 April 2014			£4,130.22

6 MOTIONS TO PUT TO THE AGM

1. That the HPA constitution is amended to remove reference to the Halcrow Trust distribution

For	30
Against	1
Abstain	0

2. That the procedural requirements for HPA committee meetings are modified

It is proposed that the requirement for physical committee meetings is reduced to at least twice per year with a quorum of 4, including two officers. However, decision taken at such meetings will need to be ratified by a majority of the committee members by online discussions.

For	32
Against	1
Abstain	1

3. That the annual subscription to HPA remains at £10

For	34
Against	0
Abstain	1

4. The HPA will collect post code data

For	30
Against	0
Abstain	2

5. That HPA obtain clarification of foreign parent company's responsibilities for pension scheme

That HPA write to the Chairman of the Trustees to find out if they have obtained a legal opinion	30
That the HPA spend up to £1,000 on trying to obtain a legal opinion	0
Do nothing at this time	1

The committee notes that this was a poorly-worded motion that would have benefited from more discussion. There was support for a letter, but apparently none to support the spending of up to £1,000 in legal fees. Anyone who feels this was a misinterpretation of the vote should advise us accordingly.

6. That the Committee is thanked for its work during the past year

For	30
Against	0
Abstain	2

7. That the committee review and update the constitution for ratification at the next AGM

For	33
Against	1
Abstain	0

8. That HPA write to the chairman of the HPS Trustees seeking clarification

For	28
Against	0
Abstain	3

9. That HPA will continue membership of the Occupational Pensioners Alliance

For	30
Against	0
Abstain	3

7 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following HPA members had indicated their willingness to stand again for re-election and had all been proposed. Only one other nomination, Martin Harrison was received, and so the Committee for 2015 is as follows:

Stephen Brichieri- Colombi	Chairman
Martin Harrison	Deputy Chairman
Malcolm Bennett	Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Jane Tordoff	Secretary
John Ratsey	Web Master
Jon Bateman	Committee Member
Chris Fleming	Committee Member
Brian Finney	Committee Member
Mike Scantelbury	Committee Member
Robin Clarke	Committee Member

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no issues raised under this heading.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

There has been an encouraging increase in the participation level this year. We had 43 members signing in, compared with 31 last year, with the average number of voters being 33, compared with 22 in 2014. The number of viewers of each motion was also up, at 66. Why only half of these actually voted the motions on way or another is unclear, and for the future we would like to encourage those who visited only to view to express their opinions.

It was interesting to observe that two of 34 voters abstained from thanking the committee. We naturally would like to hear from any members who feel that there are areas where our work needs to be improved. There has also been an encouraging upturn in membership, which is important, but the proportion still remains low. According to the HPS, on 28 February 2014 there were 42 active; 1912 deferred and 1223 pensioners for a total of 3177, while there are only 141 members of the HPA.

This is the year in which deferred pensioners over the age of 55, who are likely to be a significant proportion of the 1900 or so pensioners in this group, have the choice of deciding whether to stay or leave the HPS. Their decisions may have a significant effect on the future of the HPS, but we are assured that it will not adversely affect those of us already drawing pensions, and do not have this option.

We are pleased to note that, although the Trustees of the HPS have yet to inform other pensioners of our existence, they are using the Newsletters and Notes of Meetings to respond to questions put to them from our members, and we trust they will continue to do so. We encourage members to use our forum to consult with each other about pension issues, and we will continue to raise such issues with the HPS where we think this will help.

Some of you may be aware that, as a result of the recent Committee meeting, I have been reappointed and thus overstayed the normal three-year period as Chairman. The Committee is aware of the need to make changes and bring in fresh blood, and has taken steps to reduce the possibility of this happening again by appointing Martin Harrison as Deputy Chairman. The best way to ensure change happens is for members to take a more active role in the HPA and to volunteer themselves for the various committee roles.

That said, we would like to thank you all for your participation this year, and look forward to continuing discussion and effective action in the coming months.