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RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

Our Patron is HRH The Princess Royal

RPOAS CENTRAL BRANCH **Annual General Meeting** **1pm Sunday 20th October 2024** Falkirk Golf Club, Stirling Road, Camelon, Falkirk Minutes of Meeting

Opening and Welcome

1. The Chair, Moira Dunn (**MD**) thanked and welcomed everyone in taking the time to come to our Annual General Meeting. She then offered a warm welcome to Chief Superintendent Roddy Irvine, Local Police Commander of Forth Valley Division, who had volunteered to be our Speaker.

In Memorium - Minute's Silence

2. As was customary **MD** asked for a moment of reflection for old friends and former colleagues who had passed away since our last AGM. A minute's silence was called for Willie MacDonald, Willie Nimmo, Jim Hendry and Bob McCreadie.

Presentation By Chief Superintendent Roddy Irvine, Local Police Commander, Forth Valley Division

3. Ch. Supt Irvine asked he be allowed to speak first as he had another commitment later. This was agreed and he started giving an insight into his initial start with the Police in Glasgow. He continued with his progression through the Service and involvement in Police Scotland. He confessed that his present role as Commander in Forth Valley was a privilege he was delighted with. He then outlined the Policing commitments within the Force, giving an insight into the Departments now required to deal with modern technology. He also alluded to the difficulties associated in providing a pro-active response to incidents with limited resources.

4. On completion of his oration, there followed a lively question and answer session which might have continued longer but for time limitations. Alan Blue then thanked Ch. Supt Irvine for his interest in the Retired Officer's Branch and his time, off duty, for attending.

Members Present and Apologies

5. Members Present: Moira Dunn, Mike Mill, Les Robertson, Dave Jones, Les Robertson, Jim Lindsay, Jack Marshall, Ian Cameron, George Matchett, Andy

Malcolm, Alan Blue, Alisdair Douglas, Ian Harper, Thomas Rintoul, Gordon Munro, Nicky Waugh, Jim Huskie, Len Harvey (18)

4. Apologies: Gordon McKenzie (Call.): Tom McDougall: David Grant: Ivan Ruxton: Bob Moir: Graeme Ferguson: Craig Stewart: Donald Wilson: Colin Oliver: Hamish Fleming: Iain Wright (Stg): Willie Riddle: George Fraser: Bill McLauchlan: Ian MacKenzie: Jill Dewar: Gerry Dewar: Bob Beattie: Dave Grant: Jim Forbes: Alyn Blyth: Abby Philliben: Hector Nicolson: Charlie Gill: Andy McKean: Sandy Charleston: Jim Marshall: Bill Culbard: Andy Rodgers: Gordon Samson: Sam Muir: John Chalmers: Archie Purdie: Jim Cobain: Lance Rattray: Lesley Dodds: Stuart Dodds: Archie Murray: Derek Penman: Iain Carnegie: Cecil Ferguson: Jim Ferguson: Ian Wright; Tom Anderson and Jack Wardrope. (45)
The Secretary made special mention of Jack Wardrope, who had intimated attending the AGM but had to call off after a Hospital call up for a Pacemaker at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow. After all Jack had gone through in previous operations, he was an inspiration to us all.

NEW MEMBERS

5. **MD** extended a warm welcome to four new members to the Branch this year. Alyn Blyth, Abby Philliben, Euan Forrest and Andrew McKean.

Minutes of AGM held on 27th October 2023

6. **MD** reported that the Minutes of the last AGM on 27th October 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting. She assumed that all the members would have read the papers and asked if they were a true record of that meeting.
The minutes were adopted by Jim Lindsay and seconded by Tom Rintoul.

Matters Arising

7. There were no matters arising.

Reports by Outgoing Committee

8. **Chair Report: MD** opened her report by firstly mentioning her decision of standing down as Chair of the Branch. She warmly thanked the support given to her from the current Committee. Due to a family bereavement, Bill McLauchlan could not be present but intimated he would not be selecting re-election to the Committee. Bill Culbard has had recent hospital admissions and was now convalescing at home. He did not intend re-election. She wished them both well and thanked for their help in the past year. Our ad hoc committee member, Ian Harper had been exceptionally helpfully in both attending meetings and in editing and producing our newsletter which was greatly appreciated.

9. This is our second year at Falkirk Golf Club and our thanks go to Davy Jones and the Club personnel for arranging our venue and catering today. She went on to thank

Dave for once again organising and running two very successful Golf outings and arranging a very Historic Walk within the Riverside/Cambuskenneth area of Stirling with Dr. Murray Cook. He, like Ian, has assisted the Committee greatly this year.

Les Robertson has been a dedicated Committee member for a number of years and indeed without him, we would not have had a quorum today.

10. She then gave her sincere thanks to Mike Mill, our Branch Secretary, for all his help, hard work and dedication in keeping this Branch going. She went on to say, that like her, he would wish to step down and hand over to some other person who would take up the baton to move the Branch forward.

11. **Secretary Report: MM** Mike opened by saying the year 23 to 24 had been particularly trying in that with a diminished Committee, it had proved difficult to determine what activities our members would enjoy or be interested in. However, he re-iterated his thanks to Davy Jones who agreed to be our Golf Convenor and had organised the two well attended golf competitions. He had also connected us to Dr. Murray Cook, Stirling Councils Archaeologist, an authority on historical events in our area and beyond. Dave also had a wealth of information on further activities the Branch might undertake.

12. Our Committee did organise a number of events throughout the year. He stated he was a bit disappointed in the low response from many of our members to support these events although they had gone ahead and were acclaimed by all who attended.

Events: Christmas Lunch 14.12.23 – The Gallery Restaurant, Forth Valley College
Senior's Lunch – 12.4.24 at Torwood Garden Centre
Historical Walk, Riverside/Cambuskenneth, with Dr. Murray Cook – 8.5.24
Jim Hannah Golf Tournament – 30.5.24
Sail on Steam ship Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine -24.8.24
George Thompson Memorial Golf Trophy – 19.9.24
Visit to the Police Treatment Centre, Auchterarder – 25.9.24

13. The Charities nominated at the previous AGM, were Parkinsons and Motor Neuron. Mike Mill presented a cheque for £250 to Parkinsons Charity at Alva while a cheque for £250 was sent to Motor Neuron. Both were warmly received.

14. Our Committee has now been depleted and apart from our Chair, well over the ancient mark. He admitted that we now cannot recognise the new members who joined Police Scotland after we retired. Therefore, he hoped that today, some younger members might step forward and take the Branch into an updated attractive Association. He went on to say it was difficult to believe that out of our almost 300 membership, there were no persons interested enough to participate in some form of assistance. "We shall see?"

15. He then paid tribute to our Chair, Moira Dunn, who had been an outstanding support to him and without her help and often corrections to his outgoing messages, he could not have continued. He went on to say that Dave Jones, our Golf Convenor and Events organiser had greatly helped to keep the Branch moving forward with his involvement in the Golf tournaments and contacts with outside sources who had provided other Branch activities and also to Ian Harper, who produced readable newsletters throughout the year. Finally, he thanked another retired member, Bob McFarlane, for his support in providing sponsorship to our Golf events through his business Inception Catering.

Treasurer and Financial Report

16. **MD** Our Treasurer intimated that a copy of the Accounts had been circulated. She reported that we currently have 289 members in Central Branch, 56 of whom are over 80. She pointed out that while members over 80 were Life members and not required to pay the Annual fee of £15, a number had not cancelled their Standing Orders. She asked them to check their Bank accounts. A number of members were still paying £12 Annual fees when that fee had been raised to £15 in the previous year. She also asked those members to check their payments or change their Standing Order to reflect the increase. Only four members had not renewed their annual fees. They had been contacted by email.

17. The Branch had £6,853 in the account and our Annual Capitation fees had been paid to the National Organisation. Acceptance of the Financial report was proposed by Mike Mill and seconded by Ian Harper.

18. She finally thanked Jack Marshall for his assistance in auditing the Accounts which were an accurate and true record and account of the business conducted by Central Branch during the year to 31st July 2024. Jack agreed to audit the future accounts where Moira was Treasurer.

Appointment of Incoming Committee

19. As was the practice in previous AGM's, the current Committee stood down and discussion ensued as to proposals for new Committee members. As previous Committee members, Bill Culbard and Bill McLauchlan had intimated standing down, the Chair was relinquishing her position and the Branch Secretary had intimated his intention of standing down, **MD** called for any volunteers.

20. After a protracted discussion, Tom Rintoul was proposed as Chairman by Jim Lindsay and seconded by Andy Malcolm. There was no opposition and he was appointed. Due to our existing Treasurer's excellent control of the Accounts, Mike Mill proposed Moira Dunn as Treasurer and as she agreed, was seconded by Ian Harper. Dave Jones agreed to be Golf Convenor and was proposed by Mike Mill and seconded by Moira Dunn. Moira Dunn proposed Jim Huskie as a Committee member and after his agreement, was seconded by Mike Mill. Ian Wright, who was not present due to previous commitments, had intimated his agreement as a Committee member. He was proposed by Mike Mill and seconded by Les Robertson. The role of Branch Secretary was discussed and no person indicated an acceptance for the position.

21. The existing Secretary, Mike Mill then agreed to stand in as an Interim until a replacement could be found. This was proposed by Moira Dunn and seconded by Ian Harper. Following later discussions, Mike Mill intimated that he would continue as Branch Secretary for a further year and coach a member for that year. Les Robertson, as always, agreed to be the father of the Committee

Honorarium

22. As in the previous year, it had been accepted that an agreed £800 Honorarium was paid and divided between the Secretary and Treasurer. Members were asked to determine what amount might be allocated as an Honorarium in recognition of the additional work expected in those roles. It was proposed that an Honorarium of £800 should

continue and once again, be divided between the Secretary and Treasurer. This was proposed by Ian Harper and seconded by Ian Cameron. This was accepted by the members.

Charity Donations

23. As in previous years, when possible, the Branch had donated a small amount to suitable Charities. Also, as in previous years, the Branch had allocated £500 from their funds and again this amount was agreed, to be divided between two Charities. Members were then asked for suggestions. A number of worthwhile Charities were mentioned. The Charities eventually nominated were The Police Treatment Centres and CHAS (Children's Hospices Across Scotland). £250 would be given to these two Charities at a later date.

Annual Conference

24. **MM** informed the members that the Annual RPOAS Conference 2025, would be held in the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, 3rd and 4th April, 2025. The delegates normally comprise the Secretary (who is, by virtue of that position, a member of the Association Executive Committee) and the Chair person. The Secretaries Hotel fees were paid by the Association while the Chair or other nominated person(s) was paid by the Branch. It was suggested that this matter would be discussed in Committee and nominations left for a decision later. It was hoped that perhaps some of our newer members might consider attending as Observers. This was agreed by the Members.

AOCB

25. **MD** then asked if there was any other competent business. The Secretary then informed the members of a Motion to be presented at the Annual Conference in 2025 which would allow our Association to become a Public Limited Company by Guarantee. He gave a brief indication of what this implied for the Association and directed the members to a leaflet circulation outlining the principles of the Motion. Those members present indicated an agreement to the proposed Motion.

26. The Secretary reminded the members of the Branch Christmas Lunch organised at the Gallery Restaurant, Forth Valley College, Raploch, Stirling at 12 noon on Friday 13th December 2024. The cost of the meal was £25.95 but to Branch members, a subsidy of £3.95 would apply taking the cost to £22. Non-Branch members attending would require to pay the full cost.

Date and Venue of Next AGM

27. This would be circulated at a later date.

Closure

28. The Chair then closed the meeting and thanked the members for their attendance and contributions.

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