***PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION (PRA)***

***Airborne Forces Riders Branch (AFRB)***

***Minutes of the Committee Meeting***

***held at:***

***Cleethorpes PRA club***

***Saturday, 26th April 2025***

**Attendees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Appointment** | **Attended** |
| David Lang | Chairman | Yes |
| Al Pearson | Secretary | Yes |
| Alex Brownhill | Treasurer | Yes |
| John Harratt | Deputy Treasurer | Apologies |
| Paul Moore | Fund Raiser | Yes |
| Andy Rennison | Deputy Webmaster | Apologies |
| Steve and Barbara Bone | Social Media | Yes |
| Charlie McColgan | Welfare | Yes |
| **Board of trustees attended non-voting** | | |
| Adrian Roberts | Trustee | Yes |

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies**

Andy Rennison, Webmaster sent apologies

John Harratt, Deputy Treasurer sent apologies

1. **Chairmans Opening Address**

David Lang, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked them for their efforts during the year. He explained that the committee is responsible for the running of the Branch and ensuring decisions are reached for the benefit of both the branch and the membership. The Trustees have oversight, providing gguidance and governance, but are not involved otherwise.

**Meeting Frequency:** There would be a minimum of two meetings a year, held at Arnhem and Cleethorpes.

**Agenda Items:** Items to be discussed at meetings need to be submitted to the secretary for inclusion at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting, at which point the agenda will be finalised and closed. Only items on the agenda are to be discussed at meetings.

***Decision:*** The committee agreed this would continue.

**AGM Voting:** Only members present at the AGM who were both members of the PRA and paid branch subscription for the year would be able to vote This was to support the fact that the AGM was the forum where arguments for and against can be heard, thereby enabling informed decisions and votes.

***Decision:*** The committee unanimously agreed.

**Thank you:** The chairman expressed massive gratitude to Phil Hannah, his dedication as one of the originals and contribution to all things AFR has been amazing.

1. **Secretary’s Update**

The secretary shared his report on the computer, showing official numbers.

A secretary report will be added to the AGM minutes highlighting the below:

**Membership:**

The secretary expressed his frustration in people using callsigns on social media, so was difficult to track down the detail of certain riders:

Total AFR members: 645

Total Airborne Riders: 496

Total supporters: 137

Total named (could be nicknames) riders with no details: 12

Total known PRA members: 217

Total Prachute Regiment PRA members: 149

Total Affiliate PRA members: 68

The secretary identified we were represented in 24 countries

The secretary identified we were represented in 79 areas of UK and Ireland.

1. **Treasurer’s Update**

The Treasurer, shared his report verbally and presented a paper copy of the accounts for all to read at their leisure. He explained we are healthy. The treasury report will be added as an appendix to the AGM minutes.

***Decision:*** The meeting agreed that we are healthy and we need to ensure we spend money on our charitable aims.

The Branch account current stands at £3461.19.

Further expenses: The chairman explained that some of the original members of the AFR had spent a lot of money out of their accounts purchasing, wreaths, crosses, memberships etc and although greatly appreciated it was not right. Any AFR expenditure must be receipted and put officially through the accounts and tracked.

***Decision:***The committee unanimously agreed that AFR expenditure should not be born by a rider in future, but set against the funds.

1. **Fundraising Update**

Paul Moore advised the committee that our main fundraising activities are the AGM in Cleethorpes and Arnhem, although some auctions were positive in raising funds.

1. **Social Media Update**

Barbara Bone restated that several people had become members of the social media (Facebook account) numbering over 800. She and Steve Bone continued to be strict with the set of questions needed to be answered, with which to join the group. This filters time wasters.

***Decision:***The committee unanimously agreed that this should continue until a better solution is sought and we should not deter people from being interested in the AFR.

1. **Website**

In the absence of the webmaster the chairman explained that Andy Rennison now controlled the website and had taken over from Phil Hannah subject to a vote at the AGM.

**9. G4 Update**

The Chairman explained that there will be no G4 update as the quartermaster role had been removed from the committee. The shop and quartermaster issues would now run independently by Michael Turnpenny (Ziggy Milemuncher), the chairman thanked him for all the hard work, especially the standard.

1. **Welfare**

There were no welfare issues to report, however Charlie McColgan did explain it is up to all to keep an eye and ear to the ground in your areas and let Charlie know so we can support.

**11. Standard Bearer**

Ron Webster explained that the standard had been displayed on three occasions, twice by himself at Oosterbeek Cemetery and Birmingham Military Tattoo and twice by Dave Raes at Cromwell Lock commemoration and Donnington.

Ron explained he was initially concerned how it would be received carrying it in bikers gear, however said it was widely received in a positive manner.

1. **AOB:**

**Summer Rally.** General Sir John Lorimer, Patron of AFR, has invited the Riders to return to the Isle of Man before he hands over as Governor. The Chairman has agreed dates with General Lorimer and the visit will be 24-27 July 2025

**Arnhem Accommodation.** The general topic of accommodation was discussed. It was agreed that the lack of bar and restaurant at Oostappen diminished the experience for us. But it was agreed that it is not our role to sort accommodation for our members. Members make their own way and their own accommodation arrangements. However, a suggested central site will be communicated. In 2025 that is Euro Park Arnhem. This has been communicated on the AFR Facebook page.

***Action:*** Al Pearson volunteered to do a review of parking and form up points for the two sites

**Thank you: RE Memorial Driel:**

The donation of 800 Euros for the Engineers Memorial at Driel was warmly received.

**Committee Vacancies:**

The following Committee members will be announced to be voted in formerly at the AGM:

Andy Rennison as Webmaster

Alistair Pearson as Secretary

John Harratt as deputy Treasurer

Alex Brownhill as Treasurer

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Arnhem in 2025.

**Appendix 1 – Summary of Decisions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Summary of Decisions | Decision Maker |
| 26/04/25  D1 | The committee unanimously agreed AFR expenditure should not generally be born by a rider in future. | Proposer: Chairman  Vote: Carried Unanimous |
| 26/04/25  D2 | Items to be discussed at meetings need to be submitted to the secretary for inclusion at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting, at which point the agenda will be finalised and closed. Only items on the agenda are to be discussed at meetings. | Proposer: Chairman  Vote: Carried Unanimous |
| 26/04/25  D3 | Only members present at the AGM who were paid up and members of the PRA could vote as the AGM was the forum where arguments for and against can be heard, thereby enabling informed decisions and votes. | Proposer: Chairman  Vote: Carried Unanimous |
| 26/04/25  D4 | The meeting agreed that we are financially healthy and we need to show money going out as well as going in, so all are encouraged to provide good ideas for spending | Proposer: Chairman  Vote: Carried Unanimous |
| 26/04/25  D4 | The general topic of accommodation was discussed. It was agreed that the lack of bar and restaurant at Oostappen diminished the experience for us. But it was agreed that it is not our role to sort accommodation for our members. Members make their own way and their own accommodation arrangements. However, a suggested central site will always be communicated. | Proposer: Chairman  Vote: Carried Unanimous |
| 26/04/25  D4 | The following Committee members will be announced to be voted in formerly at the AGM:  Andy Rennison as Webmaster  Alistair Pearson as Secretary  John Harratt as deputy Treasurer | Proposer: Chairman  Vote – At the AGM |

**Appendix 2 – Summary of Actions**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Summary of Actions | Owner | Target Completion Date |
| 26/04/25  A1 | Al Pearson and Tom Bridges are heading to Arnhem end of June and will identify a form up point to support both campsites | Al Pearson | 9 July 2025 |