

**MINUTES OF THE RAF CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AFCC AMPORT HOUSE – 27 OCTOBER 2016**

Item	Discussion & Decisions	Action
1. Opening Prayer.	The Chairman opened the meeting with prayer and a silence was observed in memory of former chaplains and members of the Branch who had died in the past year. Members noted with regret the deaths of Richard Taylor and Jean Meadows (widow of Roy Meadows).	All.
2. Apologies for absence.	Apologies were received from: Harry and Rosemary Bourne, John Carvosso, Dennis & Hilda Clark, Graham & Edna Corderoy, John Carvosso, Alastair & Helen Davies, Rhoda Drummond, Adrian Gatrill, Ian & Melanie Greenhalgh, Des & Jean Harvey, Mike Hawes, Pat & Bill Holland, Pauline Parnell-Hopkinson, Sheila Jenkyns, Malcolm Jones, Pamela Knowles-Brown, Alan Knox, Chris & Elizabeth Ledgard, David Maple, Andy McMullon, John & Kathie Morley, Ray & Christine Pentland, Mary Renowden, Herbie & Adrienne Stuart.	Secretary
3. Minutes.	The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Malcolm Weisman, seconded by Brian McAvoy, passed nem con.	Secretary
4. Matters arising.	The Chairman reported that he had met with the Chaplain-in-Chief to discuss ways of increasing membership of the Association. It was suggested that a representative of the Association could be invited to attend gatherings of the Chaplains Branch and encourage those about to retire to join the Association and perhaps mention it during the Centenary celebrations in 2018. No decision was made. A typographical error in the minutes was corrected to read that the next meeting should have read 2016 and not 2015.	All Secretary
5. Chairman's Report.	The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and Secretary for their work over the past year. He said he would speak more fully about the Centenary celebrations at Item 10.	Chairman All
6. Secretary's report and news of members.	The Secretary stated that membership stands at 84 members of whom 13 are widows. Susan Wilson (widow of Irvine Wilson) has resigned her membership.	
7. Treasurer's report.	The Treasurer presented the accounts with a balance of £4,307.05 as at 15 August 2016. Regular outgoings were £35.99 to maintain the website and £50.00 for buying wreaths for New Entrant Chaplains to lay at the Menin Gate. It was proposed that £3,500.00 be set aside for the Centenary celebrations. Proposed by Brian McAvoy, seconded by Tony Fletcher, passed nem con. Full details of the accounts will be published on the website.	
8. Welfare Officer's Report	The Welfare Officer has been in touch with the widows and others. Their details are not being made public with these minutes. A vote of thanks was proposed by June SIRR, seconded by Bob Bailey and passed nem con.	
9. Constitution and Election of Officers	The Chairman gave his thanks for the Secretary's work and that of the Treasurer during the past year and in the absence of any volunteers to replace either of them they were both re-elected nem con. It was suggested that the Chairman remain in post to oversee the Association's involvement with the Branch for the Centenary celebrations. Proposed by Brian Halfpenny, seconded by Robin Turner, passed nem con.	All
10. Centenary of the RAF and RAF Chaplains' Branch	The Chairman reported he had been in discussions with the Chaplain-in-Chief and the lead chaplain, Padre Giles Legood, for the Centenary celebrations in July 2018 based at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre, Amport House. This will probably take the form of a Garden Party and lecture with an overlap of the Association meeting on the evening before into the following day and serving chaplains arriving on the day of the event itself. The RAF is to commission a March for the Chaplains' Branch. The exact day of the Centenary is also Easter Day 2018 and this will be celebrated at St Clement Danes. The Patents for the formation of the Chaplains' Branch were granted in the autumn of 1918 and that event will be celebrated by the Branch and Association at St Clement Danes in October. There will be a national service after Easter. Further details will be announced. The location of RAF Church Service Registers was requested. Members also asked if there was an up-to-date history of the Branch.	Chairman All Chairman
11. Any other business	The Chairman on behalf of the Association thanked Ian Thomas for the work he does in maintaining the Association's website and this was greeted with a round of applause.	All
12.	The next reunion and AGM will take place at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre, Amport House from Thursday 26 to Friday 27 October 2017.	All

Ron Hesketh Chairman	David Mackenzie Secretary
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