

Retired Teachers' Association Northern Ireland

Minutes of 67th Annual General Meeting
held at Corick House, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
Wednesday, 21st October 2009 at 11.00am

- Welcome* Des Rawlings, on his first occasion as Chairman, welcomed guests and branch members. He requested that we remember the late Oswald Jamison, a previous Hon. Secretary, and also Jim Atkinson, husband of Robina, recent Chairman. He thanked Nichola Pearce, Adelaide Insurance, for the kind donation of £100.
- Apologies* Anne O'Reilly, Chief Executive Age Concern
Renée McClelland, North-East Branch
Joan Patton, Belfast Branch
Margaret Kennedy, Secretary, Craigavon Branch
Laura Adair, Secretary, Mid-Ulster Branch
Henry Phillips, Mid-Antrim Branch
Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions Bangor
Edith Watson, Craigavon Branch
Eddie McArdle, General Teaching Council
Fern Turner, National Association of Head Teachers
Ivy Humes, Omagh, Co. Tyrone
Valerie McKee, Dargan Press, Mallusk
Ann Gardiner, Craigavon Branch
Nichola Pearce, Adelaide Insurance Belfast
Margaret Galloway, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Jean Cochrane, Belfast Branch
Fred Brown, Executive NASUWT
- Guests Present* George Sharkey and Jacqueline Friel, DENI Pensions Branch
Tony Lappin, INTO
- Total present* 104
- 2008 Minutes* The Minutes of the 66th AGM, held on Wednesday, 22nd October 2008, were proposed as a correct record by Robina Atkinson and seconded by Colm Lambe. With no matters arising, they were adopted unanimously.
- Executive* The Executive Report was taken as read, proposed by Robert Pinkerton and seconded by Hugh Donnelly.
- ACHTA* In the absence of Anne O'Reilly Chief Executive Age Concern Help the Aged, and Renée McClelland, Chairman suggested that we continue, nevertheless, our £100 corporate membership. This was proposed by Robert Thompson and seconded by Peggy Pinkerton. Chairman paid a glowing tribute to the work of Renée on behalf of retired teachers and, indeed, our more senior citizens. Hon. Secretary stated that the Executive Committee had sent a floral bouquet to Renée following her retirement from Executive Committee and that she had later sent a very nice letter thanking C.E.C. for this gift.
- PSPC* Des Rawlings reported on three areas:
- The worry that public service pensions might be under threat due to the ripple created by public service employees who retired on high/super high pensions, particularly, in the event of a hung-Parliament, if the Liberal Democrats demand that something be done about this issue. He recommended making our MLAs/MPs aware that such a proposal would actually cost the Government money and that it would be at least 20 years before any money could be made following the implementation of such a scheme;

- We should be aware of the statistics on attacks on the 'Third-Age' which show that there is no significant increase in these over the years and that we are no less safe than before in our homes;
 - The debt we owe to RTANI Branch Secretaries who see the organization through and keep it going.
- Jas. W. Calderwood proposed and Peggy Pinkerton seconded the both adoption of the PSPC Report and our continued corporate membership of PSPC.

Finances From the 2009 AGM Report, Hon. Treasurer outlined our Current Account and Business Reserve Account. Eugene Magill proposed and Robina Atkinson seconded the adoption of the Financial Report.

Hon. Auditor Robina Atkinson proposed and Ian Dixon seconded continuing with Patricia Halliday.

RTA Website Hon. Secretary stated that our website had attracted almost 800 hits and is increasingly used by newly-retired teachers who wish to find out more about our association before joining.

Secretary Hon. Secretary reported that, following a directive from the Executive Committee, he would be weighing up alternative venues for the AGM, in particular, the Gilgood Lodge on the A26. Peggy Pinkerton kindly mentioned that she had recently visited it and because the proprietor was only able to cater for 100 maximum, it was out of the question. She suggested the Chestnut Lodge, which Hon. Secretary offered to check out. Meeting was generally of the opinion that Corick House would be difficult to beat.

Guests Tony Lappin, INTO, reported that Teachers' Superannuation Regulations have been deferred depending on the outcome of an Equality Impact Assessment. He spoke about the changing face of education and hoped that, following the current period of uncertainty in so many areas, the profession would eventually enjoy the benefits of the on-going debates and proposals.

Members asked Tony to convey their best wishes to Frank Bunting for an improvement in his health.

George Sharkey, DENI, supported the introduction of the RTA central database and offered to assist keeping it up-to-date by notifications on deaths and resignations etc. He assured RTA that DENI was remaining in the North-West and would continue to process pensions in spite of the setting up of a Single Education Authority. A new computer system, he claimed, would assist future retirees in pension forecast and he was looking forward to the time when all retired teachers would have their pensions paid by secure electronic transfer. Jacqueline Friel, DENI, was presented with a token of RTA appreciation for the invaluable work she and her team carry out on our behalf.

Valerie McKee, Dargan Press, Mallusk, was thanked for the work her company does in producing the AGM Report and was presented, in absentia, with a token of RTA appreciation.

Elections President, Robert Thompson reminded members that there would be three elections of Officers; Chair, Vice-Chair and Hon. Officers, plus Secretary and President if required.

The following nomination was accepted;

Chairman	Des Rawlings	Proposed by Iris Clarke Seconded by Isabel McKenna	<i>Elected</i>
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Robert was pleased to have been a member under four Secretaries; Mr. Nevin, Oswald Jamison, Margaret Wilson and the current Secretary, adding that the current Vice-Chair was a daughter of Mr. Nevin.

The following nomination was accepted;

Vice-Chair	Mary Marley	Proposed by Marion O'Hanlon Seconded by Des Rawlings	<i>Elected</i>
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Robert reminded meeting that the Hon. Secretary was appointed by Central Executive Committee, not the AGM, as the position involved advertising, short-listing and interviews etc.

Secretary	Brendan McGlone	Not up for re-appointment	<i>Continuing</i>
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President then announced that, with great regret but for health reasons, he would be resigning. He had already nominated Iris Clarke and called for any further nominations. Robina Atkinson then nominated Robert Pinkerton. The two nominations were as follows:

Iris Clarke	Proposed by Robert Thompson Seconded by Des Rawlings
Robert Pinkerton	Proposed by Robina Atkinson Seconded by James Nesbitt

A show of hands favoured a secret ballot, for which Secretary distributed printed ballot papers. Moira Gribben and Colm Lambe kindly offered to assist in invigilating the election and counting the votes. Since Hon. Secretary does not have a vote, he checked and verified the papers, which resulted in Iris Clarke having more votes.

In accepting the position as President, Iris Clarke thanked Robert Thompson for his work over the years and hoped that he might consider continuing as a co-opted member on the Central Executive Committee.

Robert welcomed Iris to the position and added that there would now be a vacancy on the Central Executive Committee for Tyrone, as well as the vacancy for North-West Branch caused by the recent resignation of Chris Wilson who was visiting family in Austria and Australia on a long-term basis.

Robert informed members that the four co-opted Executive Representatives remained as;

Robina Atkinson
Sandra Savage
Ian Dixon
Colm Lambe

Chairman, Des Rawlings, thanked Robert for his many years of service to RTA, adding that he was widely regarded as the *father figure* to whom we were able to turn when we needed sound, considered advice. He suggested that we consider a formal appreciation to him at the 2010 AGM.

Adoption Colm Lambe proposed the adoption of all Reports. This was seconded by Robert Pinkerton and subsequently accepted by Meeting.

Announcements 2010 AGM was pencilled in for Wednesday, 20th October at the same venue, Corick House, Clogher. Secretary later reported, however, that because a wedding was booked in for that day, the AGM would have to be brought forward one week, to Wednesday 13th October 2010.

AOB There being no further business, Chairman, Des Rawlings duly closed the meeting at 12.55pm for lunch.

Please note that the date for the 2010 AGM is now Wednesday, 13th October (not 20th October).