

**Minutes of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Annual General Meeting held via Zoom video-conference call on Saturday 12th December, 2020 at 3pm**

**Present on Line:** Brian Moroney, Seamus Greene, Paul Appleby, Thomas Murphy, Suzanne O'Neill, George Jones, Sally Copeland Keogh, John Sheehan and Paul Taylor

**Apologies:** Niall Leinster, Sean Slattery, David Buckley and Aidan Kavanagh

Several members were also present on line. They were Marie Guilfoyle, Andy Plane, Mark O'Brien, Sean Ryan, Martin Lenihan, Peter McGuire, Sean Connolly, Patrick Molloy, Maurice Hayden, Pat McGrail, John O'Brien, Liam Corcoran and Ciaran Hogarty

Brian Moroney checked and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Brian then summarised Tom Burke's President's Address to the meeting and asked Paul Taylor to circulate the text to members. A hard copy of his address is associated with these minutes in the Minutes of Meetings file. In his Chairman's Report Brian thanked the editorial sub-committee for their hard work in producing The Old Tough newsletter and the soon to be issued Blue Cap journal. Our planned tour to Salonika was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic but hopes remain that it may happen in late 2021 when hopefully the effects of vaccines will be evident.

Three of our colleagues, Sean Ryan, John O'Brien and Aidan Kavanagh are well advanced in preparing a booklet on former Royal Dublin Fusiliers who are buried in Mount Jerome Cemetary and who hopefully will be in a position to organise a tour perhaps in March. David Buckley has some ideas for day trips during the year to areas of interest to the Association in particular the Curragh Camp.

Brian added that Covid-19 has been acrippler and that in 1920 Dublin was in a similarly bad place and that as before the Dubs will never give in.

Paul Taylor then summarised the Secretary's Report which had been sent to all members. Sean Connolly echoed the reference to Dr Mary Clark, City Archivist, who is due to retire before Christmas. Mary, he noted, was a great help to the Association from the time of its formation and has always been a friend to us.

Paul Appleby proposed that the Report be adopted which seconded by John Sheehan. It was duly adopted.

Seamus Green in his Treasurer's Report stated that all members had been sent a copy of the Financial Statement. Tight control has been exerted on expenditure and that a modest surplus was returned on our trip to Cavan and the Annual Dinner. At present, membership stands in excess of one hundred and thirty and the Association has thirteen thousand euro in our bank account. New members continue to be attracted. The Standing Order facility for paying the annual subscription has proved popular.

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Thomas Murphy and Seconded by Suzanne O'Neill. It was duly adopted.

Pat McGrail then asked about the Association starting a WhatsApp group and to consider creating a Paypal account as a means to simplify payments for those members living abroad. Brian Moroney said that this will be an issue to be addressed by the incoming committee.

Paul Appleby then briefed the meeting on the Association's new constitution and the Charities Regulator's Governance Code. Our original constitution is twenty-five years old and needed to be addressed and updated. He, along with Sean Slattery and Thomas Murphy produced the expanded document to be put to the membership. Paul advised that the document sent to members for consideration had been scrutinised by the Charities Regulator who, in the interim, requested some clarifications and amendments. These changes were duly made to the document by Paul which was finally approved by the Regulator this week. Paul then read out in full the amendments made to the issued constitution. He invited questions from the members and addressed fully those raised by Sean Connolly and Andy Plane to their satisfaction. Our constitution is now fully compliant with both the Charities Regulator and Revenue.

Brian Moroney asked for a proposer and seconder for adoption of the new constitution. Maurice Hayden and Marie Guilfoyle duly obliged respectively. The new constitution was put to the meeting and was accepted unanimously.

The election of the committee was the next issue to be addressed. Brian advised that the committee in its entirety was willing to stand down and put itself forward for re-election. He added that although Sean Slattery, Aidan Kavanagh and David Buckley could not be present they were willing to go forward again.

John O'Brien volunteered to join the committee. His nomination was proposed by Brian Moroney and seconded by Suzanne O'Neill.

The incoming committee was then reappointed unanimously.

Brian asked John O'Brien if he could continue his excellent work liaising with Sean Ryan and Aidan Kavanagh on the Mount Jerome project. Seamus Greene added that any funds required to produce a booklet on the Dublin Fusiliers could be disbursed by the Association. It was universally agreed that this should be the case.

Brian Moroney then thanked Thomas Murphy on an excellent job in organising and administering the Zoom meeting. He pointed out that the committee has met forty-nine times on Zoom this year, though many were social occasions in getting the group in time of lock-down.

Brian then asked Paul Taylor to set a date for the next committee meeting. Paul suggested Monday 11th January, 2021 at 8pm which was agreed.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm