

Minutes of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Annual General Meeting held via Zoom video-conference call on Saturday 8th January, 2022 at 3pm

Present on Line: Brian Moroney, Seamus Greene, Paul Appleby, Thomas Murphy, Suzanne O'Neill, George Jones, John Sheehan, John O'Brien, David Buckley and Paul Taylor

Apologies: Niall Leinster, Sean Chambers and John Moore

Several members were also present on line. They were Jon Toohey, Anthony Barnes, Patrick O'Sullivan, Mark O'Brien, Peter McGuire, Peter Mulready, Stephen Ryan, Noel Hand, Mary Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Tom Burke, Sean Ryan and Maurice Hayden.

Brian Moroney welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if all present had received the material referring to the A.G.M. All present agreed.

Brian asked if the draft Agenda for the meeting could be approved. This was proposed by Anthony Barnes and seconded by Thomas Murphy and duly accepted.

Paul Taylor then read the minutes of our last A.G.M. held on Saturday 12th December, 2020 via Zoom conference. Their adoption was proposed by John Sheehan, seconded by Paul Appleby and duly accepted.

In his Chairman's Report, Brian thanked the Committee and the Editorial Sub-committee for their work during the year and commended them to the meeting. Successful events during the year included a trip to Durrow, commemorative event in Mount Jerome and remembrance service in City Quay Church. Brian acknowledged the hard work in organising these events by Suzanne O'Neill, George Jones, John O'Brien, Sean Ryan, Aidan Kavanagh, Anthony Barnes and Thomas Murphy. He thanked Jon Toohey and John O'Brien for their ongoing attention to the Dubs Facebook page which continues to attract attention. He thanked Seamus Greene and Paul Taylor who are stepping down from their positions of Treasurer/Standard Bearer and Honorary Secretary respectively. He thanked Aidan Kavanagh who is also standing down from the Committee. Brian then asked the meeting to remember our Committee member Sean Slattery who tragically died during the year. Brian acknowledged the Trojan work done by Paul Appleby in liaising with the Charity Commissioner and Revenue and he was delighted to report that the Association is in full compliance with all legal requirements. Brian added that he was asked to pass on thanks from Sean Chambers to Sean Ryan for all his assistance in tracing his ancestor's service records.

Paul Taylor advised that his Secretary's Report is essentially that given by the Chairman in that he detailed the Association's activities during the year. Brian asked if everyone present had read it and if it could be approved by the meeting. Its adoption was proposed by John Sheehan, seconded by Paul Appleby and duly approved.

Seamus Greene then give a report on the Financial Statement in which he advised that the current financial of the Association is reasonably good. There was as surplus of €1,000 of income over expenditure. Inflow of subscriptions however was very slow. Our income was also affected by the fact that no Christmas Dinner was held due to the Covid pandemic resulting in the loss of revenue

from the raffle. On the other hand many members generously make a donation to the Association in addition to their annual subscription. Brian asked all members present if they could try to seek new recruits to our Association. The adoption of the statement was proposed by Suzanne O'Neill, seconded by Jon Toohey and duly accepted.

The election of committee members to the various posts then followed. That Brian Moroney be elected Chairman was proposed by Thomas Murphy, seconded by John Sheehan and was duly approved. That Sally Copeland Keogh be elected as Treasurer was proposed by Brian Moroney, seconded by Maurice Hayden and was duly approved. That Thomas Murphy be elected as Honorary Secretary was proposed by Brian Moroney, seconded by George Jones and Duly approved. That Suzanne O'Neill be elected Membership Secretary was proposed by Paul Appleby, seconded by Seamus Greene and duly approved.

Brian added that our colleague Philip Lecane was willing to rejoin the Committee following the tragic death of his wife, Kate, last year. All present were delighted to hear this good news.

Brian again stressed the importance of getting members subscriptions on a timely basis and said he would welcome any suggestions people might have in advancing this goal. The Committee suggested that the annual subscription remain at €20 for residents of Ireland and €25 for overseas members be retained pending a review during the year. This motion was proposed by Seamus Greene, seconded by Maurice Hayden and duly approved.

Under Any Other Business, John Sheehan thanked Paul Taylor for his services to the Association as Honorary Secretary.

Brian then outlined the activities planned for the forthcoming year which promised to be very busy. The highlight of our commemoration events this year will be the service in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin on Sunday 12th June 2022. Representatives of our sister associations will join us. The Lord Mayor of Dublin has accepted an invitation. The British Embassy is very receptive to the event and will hopefully send a senior representative. The Garda Síochána in Kevin Street have been advised of the service and will meet with the Association on its planning. George Jones and Suzanne O'Neill are involved in the planning of a trip to Windsor via Liverpool and the National Arboretum commencing on Monday 13th June 2022. Jon Toohey kindly agreed to liaise with them in organising activities in the Windsor/London areas. It is planned to canvass members in March to ascertain what interest there would be in the trip to Windsor. The National Army Museum in Chelsea would be delighted to welcome us and give us a private tour.

David Buckley advised that he is very willing to organise a day trip to the Curragh Camp during the year when Covid restrictions allow. The museum there is currently closed to visitors.

Mary Kennedy asked when was it proposed to have our tour to Salonika. Seamus Greene said that, depending on pandemic restrictions, the tour could hopefully take place between the 9th and 13th May, 2022.

John O'Brien gave an update on the Mount Jerome project and reported that the graves of fifty-two former members of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers have now been identified. He plans to continue his work this year. Brian thanked him and his colleagues, Sean Ryan, Aidan Kavanagh and Anthony Barnes for all their hard work.

Paul Taylor then thanked Thomas Murphy for organising not only the A.G.M. by Zoom but also all our Committee meetings. He wished him every success in his role as Honorary Secretary. Brian Moroney agreed that Zoom was a life safer during the pandemic and kept the Association alive.

There being no further business to discuss Brian asked the incoming Secretary to suggest a date for the next Committee meeting. Thomas suggested Monday 24th January, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom. This was agreed by the Committee members present.

Brian thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.