

## DRAFT

### Minutes of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association's Annual General Meeting for 2023

Freemason's Hall, Dublin, Friday, 8th December 2023 at 7.00 pm

**Committee present:** Paul Appleby, David Buckley, Sally Copeland Keogh, Seamus Greene, George Jones, Philip Lecane, Brian Moroney, Thomas Murphy, John O'Brien, Suzanne O'Neill, John F Sheehan and Paul Taylor.

#### **Apologies:**

Some 40 Association members attended the meeting. 24 apologies for non-attendance were received by email and one by phone, and one completed voting paper was received from a member.

#### **Introduction**

Brian Moroney welcomed everyone to the Meeting and asked if all present had read the documents circulated prior to the AGM. All present agreed.

#### **Draft Agenda**

Brian asked if the draft Agenda for the meeting could be approved. This was proposed by David Buckley, seconded by Larry Yourell, and duly accepted.

#### **Draft Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

Thomas Murphy then read the minutes of our last AGM which was held on Saturday, 2nd January 2022, in the Freemason's Hall, Dublin. Their adoption was proposed by Paul Appleby, seconded by Gerard Spain, and duly accepted.

#### **Chairman's Statement**

In his Chairman's Report, Brian Moroney thanked the Committee and the Editorial Committee for their dedicated work during the year and commended them to the Meeting. The number of remembrance events which were organised or attended by the RDFA was again very high. At many of these events, the Association Standard was paraded, and he thanked all of the Committee members involved. He thanked Jon Toohey, Anthony Barnes and John O'Brien for their ongoing attention to the Dubs' Facebook and X (Twitter) pages which continue to attract attention and Anthony, John and Seán Ryan for their ongoing work in researching all the Royal Dublin Fusiliers buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery. Brian also acknowledged the trojan work done by Paul Appleby in liaising with the Charities Regulator and Revenue, and he was delighted to report that the Association was in full compliance with all legal requirements. The RDFA trip in September to Ypres/Ieper and the surrounding area was a particular highlight. The parading of the Association Standard and the Standard of the Machine Gun Corps Association at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate was received with great pleasure and delight by the Last Post Committee.

A number of members complimented the Committee and the Association's members on their extensive work over the last year.

#### **Annual Report for 2023**

Thomas Murphy advised that his detailed Secretary's Report was sent out prior to the AGM and included all the events that were attended by the Association. Brian then asked if everyone present

had read it and if it could be approved by the Meeting. Its adoption was proposed by John F Sheehan, seconded by Brian Moroney, and duly approved.

### **Financial Statement for period ending 25 April 2023**

Sally Copeland Keogh then gave a report on the Financial Statement (which was issued prior to the AGM) in which she advised that the current financial position of the Association was reasonably good. Sally mentioned that some members generously made donations to the Association in addition to their annual subscriptions. Brian asked all members present if they could try to seek new recruits to our Association. The adoption of the Financial Statement was proposed by John F Sheehan, seconded by Thomas Murphy, and duly accepted.

On the subject of membership, Suzanne O'Neill reported that much work had been done in 2022 to secure prompt payment of members' subscriptions and to invite lapsed members to rejoin the Association. Aided by the profile of the Association this year, this work had yielded results, and she was pleased to report that we now had 117 paid-up members.

### **Proposal to alter the RDFA Financial year end from 25 April to 30 September**

At the invitation of the Chair, Paul Appleby indicated that implementation of this proposal, if agreed, would require the prior approval of the Charities Regulator. There were two main reasons for the change:

- firstly, as the membership year was the calendar year, the current 25 April date meant that some membership income for a calendar year was recorded in the financial year up to 25 April and some fell into the following financial year. This complicated the work of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary in tracking membership renewals. A 30 September end date would simplify this, as almost all such income for a calendar year was received before 30 September;
- secondly, our regular December AGM receives a formal financial statement up to 25 April only, more than six months earlier. A 30 September end date would give members much more up-to-date information on the current financial standing of the Association.

On the nomination of Brian Moroney, seconded by Sally Copeland Keogh, the resolution was agreed by all present.

### **Election of Officers**

The election of the 12 Committee members then took place. All existing officers were proposed, seconded and duly elected as trustees for 2024. Brian Moroney was re-elected as Chairman, Sally Copeland Keogh as Treasurer and Thomas Murphy as Honorary Secretary. The full list of 2024 Committee members is as follows: Brian Moroney, Sally Copeland Keogh, Thomas Murphy, Paul Appleby, David Buckley, Seamus Greene, George Jones, Philip Lecane, John O'Brien, Suzanne O'Neill, John F Sheehan and Paul Taylor.

### **Membership Subscription for 2024**

The resolution before the meeting was that the annual subscription for 2024 be set at €20 for all members. This was agreed by all present.

### **Any Other Business**

There being no other substantive business, the meeting ended at 7.40 pm.