



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**GRAVESEND & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL
ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

GRAVESEHAM COURT GRAVESEND

7th MARCH 2017

Meeting Opened at 1950 hrs

Attendees:

R. Bardsley, K Trevor, S. Dixon, D Spurgeon, B Frost, M Dobson, R Ellis,
D Allen, O Foster, D Ward, B Stanley , B James.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed all branch members to the Annual General Meeting 2017.

Apologies:

The following members tendered their apologies of absence.

R Finney, J. Hoadley.

New Members:

D Ward, B Stanley, Paul O'Neill

Previous Minutes:

As emailed & displayed, dated 1st March 2016. Be accepted as read.

Proposed by: Mr D Spurgeon

Seconded by: Mr D Allen

Carried

Matters Arising From Previous Minutes: Nil

Presidents Report:

The branch President congratulated Mr M Dobson on his award of the REA Badge of Merit, and failure to wear at official function would result in the purchase of a bottle of port.

The President thanked the committee & the ladies of the branch for all their hard work in the background on branch functions.

Remarked that all branch functions were well attended and looked forward to another busy year.

Proposed by: Mr K Trevor.

Seconded by: Mr B Frost.

Carried

Chairman's Report:

1. I would like to start by thanking all members, on behalf of the committee, for their full support over the last year. There have been 11 events (Branch Service to Branch Service – civic service/poppy picnic/ armed forces/CMW/Trafalgar Day/ Gordons Day/ Trooping the Colour/REA AGM/Sapper Sunday) which we have been represented both for the Branch & other organizations. And I know Ray has carried Standards at other functions.
2. Fortunately, this year has not been clouded by the loss of any member of the Branch, although Bob Grimes lost his wife Betty. Can we just take a moment to reflect on her passing. May she R.I.P
3. Unlike the previous year's our annual Xmas bash at The Ship Inn, albeit well supported, was not as expected for which you have my final apology. I think we were well looked after by the serving staff but not the organisation as a whole.
4. I think the year in front of us will bring more success particularly if:
 - a. Recruiting , which was our main aim at the Poppy Picnic, total wash out due to the weather although Ann Allen was a complete success in her fund raising for the Branch. However, we have recently gained 3 new members – Paul O'Neill, David Ward & Bill Stanley.

We have recently received a list of REA members who reside in the Gravesham area. Richard, Ray & I are going to draft a letter to see if that will prompt a response.

b. The introduction of the website has gone to plan, thanks to Stuart Dixon. I hope Stuart can update later in the meeting. If you have any technical ?s please direct them to Stuart.

5. Finally a few thank you's to the members of the committee for the advice & support. Particularly to Ray & David (Congratulations to Dave for presenting a perfect set of annual accounts to HQREA) for suffering the trails & tribunes of Secretary & Treasurer respectively. Jobs I know are always under scrutiny not only by us but from those above as well.

Once again to Ken for keeping us up to speed on the welfare matters & to Jamie ^& Bob for regularly taking our money.

And last but not least to the ladies for producing copious cups of tea, coffee, biscuits and bread pud throughout the year. And for supporting us.

That is my report.

Proposed By: Mr B James

Seconded by: Mr D Ward

Carried

Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer issued a branch Statement of Accounts up to and including 31st December 2016 with the Branch Worth as at 31st December 2016. (Attached at Annex A).

Proposed by: Mr R Ellis

Seconded by: Mr B Stanley

Carried

Honorary Secretary Report:

The Secretary reported that all Admin was up to date with HQREA.

The Branch had 2 guest's speakers since last AGM.

- a. Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
- b. Collective Legal Solutions.

The Branch Standard was paraded 5 times since the last AGM.

- a. Branch Church Service.
- b. Civic Service at St Georges Church Gravesend.
- c. Battle of Trafalgar Service St Peter's & St Paul's Church Gravesend.
- d. Pause to Remember Service Gravesend.
- e. Civic Service at St Peter's & St Pauls Church Gravesend.

Fund raising bread pudding sale had raised £211.50

The Facebook page has a good following 51 Likes and 46 Subscribers.

This is my report.

Proposed by: Mr K Trevor

Seconded by: Mr O Foster

Carried

Website Report:

The Branch website had been in operation for a year and a review will be carried out in the June Branch Meeting to see if the website shall continue.

The cost to the Branch for the website is £87.35 yearly.

More contributions are needed from branch members.

Election of Branch Officials 7th March 2017 – 6th March 2018

The President oversaw the elections, thanking all those who had volunteered their services.

President:	Mr R Bardsley
Chairman:	Mr M Dobson
Secretary:	Mr R Ellis
Treasurer:	Mr D Spurgeon
Welfare:	Mr K Trevor
Standard Bearer:	Mr R Ellis
Press:	Mr D Spurgeon

Proposed by: Mr B James

Seconded by: Mr B Frost

Carried

Proposals from the Floor:

The following standing minutes: be accepted by the Branch and voted on at AGM.

- a. Branch Charter REA Gvd. 01.03 2014**
- b. Purchase of Sapper Magazines £74**
- c. FOREM Membership for the Branch £40**
- d. Printing Branch Newsletter £60**
- e. The Welfare Member purchase a wreath or donation not to exceed £30 per bereavement.**

Proposed by: Mr R Ellis

Seconded by: Mr M Dobson

Carried

Any Other Business:

Friends of the Branch to retain status.

Date of next Annual General Meeting

Date: 6th March 2018.

Time: Commencing 1930 hrs.

Venue: Gravesham Court Leisure Centre Gravesend.

Meeting Closed:

20-40 hrs