Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund on Monday 19th August 2019 at The Police Treatment Centre, Castlebrae, Castleton Road, Auchterarder PH3 1AG – North Area hosting.

1. **SPBF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Nigel Bathgate (NB)

Stephen Clark (SC)

Catherine McNally (CM)

Bill Clark (BC)

Grant McDowall (GM)

Jenny Shanks (JS)

Gary Brown (GB)

Lynne Gray (LG)

Martyn Turner (MT)

Amanda Givan (AG)

**Also In Attendance:**

Mairi MacGregor (SPBF, Treasurer) (MMac)

Sarah Vesty (SPF) (SV)

Mark Mulholland (Auditor) (MM)

1. **OPENING OF MEETING:**

The Chair (NB) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

NB confirmed that the minutes of the last AGM had previously been published and disseminated and they were approved by those present as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

None received.

1. **ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:**

Trustees were elected as follows

**East Area**

Nigel Bathgate

Grant McDowall

Stephen Clark

**North Area**

Bill Clark

Martyn Turner

Gary Brown

**West Area**

Catherine McNally

Jenny Shanks

Lynne Gray

1. **CHAIR’S REPORT:**

The Chair (NB) thanked all the Committee members for their attendance at the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund.

He reflected on this year’s activities to date, and commented that it had been both a successful and challenging year where the number of beneficiaries has trebled on the previous year, with the charity paying out a significant amount of financial support to individuals and families in need. He confirmed that this will be highlighted when Mr Mulholland delivers the financial status of the charity later in the meeting.

NB commented that the charity is functioning as it should be in terms of delivering financial support to those who need it most, however it is important to reflect that we are a charity of last resort and we should not become the first port of call for those in financial need. NB went on to confirm that the SPBF is also not the provider of financial advice; and that there are many organizations that can provide that before this charity becomes involved.

The need to discuss and implement business planning and the development of a long-term strategy was highlighted, something that the Charity has not previously had.

NB advised of the need to identify funding sources for the Charity and that we should not simply be the charity that provides to other charities. Overall, we have been a charity that is a victim of its own success in terms of promotion to the wider police family. It is also interesting to note that the Police Service of Scotland has not donated to this charity over the seven years of its existence, although it gives to the Police Treatment Centres and other worthy causes.

NB commented that since our last AGM, the charity has developed a ‘Bad Debt Policy’, albeit thankfully such issues remain a relative rarity for the Charity.

NB went to advise that the charity is also currently involved in the progressing of Restitution Orders. Restitution Orders arrived with a fan fair at this very location in 2012, introduced by the Scottish Government but, has lain dormant until it was raised by the Scottish Police Federation with the Justice Minister a year or so ago.

The Chair then took the opportunity to thank the following individuals and organizations who provide support to the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund:

Mairi McGregor, the charities Treasurer for all her efforts throughout the year to liaise and direct payrolls, manage the applications, negotiate with auditors and generally provide a well-stocked library of historical but relevant information which guides many a Trustee.

Mark Mulholland, our Auditor for his continued association with this charity, for providing the annual accounts and for leading us comprehensively through them.

Further thanks go to the Scottish Police Federation, Association of Superintendents and the Retired Police Officers Association who all provide their support directly and indirectly through promoting the charity and providing personnel so that the local committees and the Board of Trustees can deliver and support beneficiaries.

In continuation of that theme, the members of the local SPBF committees and those who are on the SPBF Board of Trustee similarly deserve recognition for the hours that are committed to delivering essential assistance throughout the year. Time is an underestimated resource but it is often time that impacts most significantly on our beneficiaries or, potential beneficiaries and it is the time spent with Local Reps that deliver significant assistance.

NB then acknowledged the significant contribution over many years of our colleague and, Charity Trustee, Gary Brown and wished him best wishes for his retirement from the Police Service.

NB stated that it is difficult in terms of our charity to talk about success. The constitution of the Charity provides that the purpose of the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund is the prevention or relief of poverty and the relief of those in need. During this last year, the charity has supported a number of new individual beneficiaries, with significant sums involved and this highlights the charities commitment to supporting our members, as well as external organisations / causes that have a direct link to the police service. NB confirmed that that commitment will never cease.

NB then commented on the charities investments, and stated that the headline figures appear satisfactory. At 31 March 2017 the invested fund was worth £1,920,832. The fund has grown and now sits as of the 31 March this year at £1,972,547. Therefore, growth is reflected in the generated income in excess of £50,000.

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:**

Mr Mark Mulholland (MM) was present at the meeting and advised that the accounts had again been audited by Alexander Sloan Chartered Accountants. A copy of the accounts was made available for the Committee and a full and detailed update was provided by MM.

Some highlights included: -

* Grants for the past year had totalled £361,000, up by £55,000 on the previous year;
* The charities income had remained relatively unchanged for the past year at approximately £250,000;
* Reduction in ‘liquid’ funds held by the Charity and a recommendation that consideration should be given to increasing the current amount by accessing monies from the investment fund; and
* Acknowledgement that membership is slightly up on the previous year. This prompted some discussion in terms of the current position that new members (police officer and police staff) do not pay any subscriptions for the first year after joining the service, and it was unanimously agreed by all present that this be amended to the first 12 weeks of service and that subscriptions would commence after that point.
1. **MOTIONS:**

NB presented the only motion which was to amend Paragraph 17 of the charities constitution to reflect that only the name and payroll number is held on the SPBF register. Currently there is a requirement under the constitution to hold the full name, address and pay number of all members.

NB advised that the proposed change is to make the constitution compliant with GDPR regulations.

The motion received unanimous support and was passed. MM commented that such a change was considered as good practice from an auditor’s perspective.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

1. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:**

None.

1. **CLOSE OF MEETING:**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

The next AGM is scheduled for Monday 17th August 2020 at the SPF West Area Office, Merrylee House, Unit 5, Westpoint Business Park, 8 Marchfield Drive, Paisley, PA3 2RB – West Area hosting.

**Nigel Bathgate Stephen Clark**

**Chair Secretary**