The Royal Sussex Regimental Association Ltd

Minutes of the AGM held at Lewes Town Hall, Lewes

12th September 2026

Present: Barry Lane (Chair & Eastbourne), Alan Berhem-Parter (Director & Eastbourne), Ian Smith (Assoc. Sec), Denise Carr (Welfare Dir & Mid Sussex), Nigel Russell (Vice Chair), Christopher Argent (Finance Director), Andrew Wilson (Events Dir & Chichester), Greg Fielder (Comms Dir & Chichester), Julian Carr (Mid Sussex), A. Callow (Mid Sussex), Sandy and Neil Brydon (Brighton), Jane Smith (Brighton), Ian Newman (Lewes), Mick Courtnage (Brighton), Roger Lintott (Chichester), John Walters (Chichester), Rod Ulrich (Chichester), Celia Baker (Mid Sussex), Richard Buckman (Hastings), Mike Stenning (Mid Sussex), Simon Ulrich (Arundel), Brian Hudson (Chichester), Alan Woods (Arundel), Anthony Oliver (Brighton), Colin Kemp (Lewes), David Wakeham (Arundel), Peter Rudwick (Arundel), Ken Emery (Chichester), Brian Morley (Chichester), John Fowler (Chichester) totalling 31 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Douglas McCully (President) and Andrew Ferrier. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Kohima and Exhortation were recited.

Minutes The minutes of the last AGM held on 13th September 2025 had been circulated to all Branch Secretaries prior to the meeting. They were proposed as a true record of that meeting by Ian Newman and seconded by David Wakeham. Carried.

Heritage Report This had been sent in advance of the meeting to the Branches and is set out below.

GENERAL:

Over the winter and spring period, all of the projects listed in the previous report were completed and a further Samurai sword has been refurbished ready for display and just awaits a display case. Thanks to the generosity of an Eastbourne Branch member, the Collection is now the proud owner of an accurate replica uniform of a Private of the 35th Foot c 1757 – 1763. A mannequin has been procured, and we await the cross belt and hat and hopefully it will be ready for display at the Quebec Dinner.

PRESENTATIONS:

There has been a dearth of presentations over the period and only have one booked for later in the year. All monies raised by these talks will now be going into the fundraising effort for the WSRO project.

Von Arnim's car was booked for Brighton on 28 June but due to poor admin by the council, the car was pulled at the last minute. It is booked for the for Rye show on 22 August which is always popular. Any member in the area of Icklesham on the day, please come and see the car and the team. The car is available for Branch events, but they bear the cost of transportation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The silver is available for branch events, but early notification would be appreciated. It will have to collected from and returned to the storage facility by the borrower.

Liaison continues with Sussex ACF and we have a very fruitful relationship with them and they continue to support us. The firearms have been removed from the Cadet armoury and are now housed in racks over with the rest of the Collection. A full audit of these into those classed as firearms and those classed as museum items is now taking place.

The Chair continues to be part of PWRR's Heritage Committee who meet bi-annually at rotating venues across the PWRR area. This has been very useful to bed in our relationship with our successor Associations, who have been very supportive.

The chair also remains a member of project Braganza, which is putting together a database of all memorials across the PWRR patch. It will include also the location of all Regimental Colours. As you can imagine, this is an ever evolving project as it widens. Originally it was by Regiment, but is now broken down by district, so any of our monuments in other counties or overseas will now be listed by that criteria, although they are still listed as Royal Sussex monuments.

The alterations to the Memorial Boards in St George's Chapel is now complete and we are in discussion with the Cathedral Authorities to install a further board. The men on this board were mostly men who were left off the original boards as they had been for service with other regiments.

Dave Wakeham has now joined the team which allows a greater output As you can see the Heritage Directorate has been very active on behalf of the Association and the Chairman would like to thank Alan, Phil and Dave for their unswerving support in delivering all the above.

Roger Lintott questioned what would happen to the collection at the dissolution of the Association. Barry Lane replied that it would all go to WSRO but that no decision had yet been made in respect of Von Armin's car. Richard Buckman questioned whether the car could go to Bovington. Barry Lane replied that they would only accept it as a permanent gift with no chance of it coming back into Sussex for events. Any firearm pre 1939 did not need to be registered but those after this date could possibly be taken by PWRR under their license. Simon Ulrich stated that we needed guarantees as to what would happen to our collection should we fail to reach the target needed to complete the move to WSRO. Barry Lane stated that a professional fundraiser would be tasked with raising the money and that they had every confidence of reaching the required sum but appreciated the point made.

Rod Ulrich read a letter from Brian O'Gorman highlighting his concerns about the Association and the direction of travel.

It was suggested that Boars Head Commemoration could be added to the list of events to be handled by PWRR namely St George's Day Service, Goodwood Races and Quebec Dinner.

The Chairman sought approval from the meeting to continue discussions with PWRR regarding the handover of finance and Heritage. 16 votes for, Nil against.

There was a vote of thanks from the floor to Barry Lane and his helpers for the work that they do.

FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2025:
The accounts and reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. See separate documents. Chris Argent ran through the categories and figures for each set of accounts.

ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT ASSOCIATION TRUST:
The Corporate Trustee presents its annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31 December 2025.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Trust Deed, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Finance Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Royal Sussex Regiment 1939 — 1945 War Memorial Fund ("The Fund") appointed The Royal Sussex Regimental Association Limited, a company limited by guarantee, as its sole Corporate Trustee and it has devolved power to the Corporate Trustee to meet the charitable Objects. The Board of Directors of the Corporate Trustee meets routinely at least twice a year. Working Parties, reporting to the Board of Directors, are established from time to time to meet challenges as required.

As previously reported the intention to restructure has been a governance priority. Regrettably the restructure mentioned has now had to be abandoned because of the refusal of the Charity Commission to endorse the proposals after appeal, notwithstanding the positive legal advice received by the Board of Directors of the Corporate Trustee. A proposal by the Charity Commission to link the two Trusts was not taken as it was likely to substantially increase administrative work, rather than reduce it.
After reconsideration therefore the Directors resolved to commence negotiations with the Trustees of the Princess of Wales's Regiment, the ultimate successor regiment of the Royal Sussex Regiment. A road map to achieve this has now been established and work continues to achieve this which will ensure that the existing aims and activities of the Royal Sussex Trusts will be continued within the much larger and better resourced structure of the successor Regiment's Charities.

Charitable Objects

The Object of the Charity is to administer a fund, in memory of those members of the Royal Sussex Regiment ("The Regiment') who gave their lives during World War Il, to the charitable benefit of all members of the Regimental Association.

Activities and Objectives

The Charity fulfils its charitable Objects as follows.

1. To administer an endowment fund within the terms of the Trust Deed.

2. To provide and maintain an Illuminated Memorial Book recording the names of those who gave their lives in World War ll. The Book is to be housed in a suitable case within the Regiment's Chapel, St Georges, at Chichester Cathedral.
3. To employ income received from the Fund's investments to the benefit of members of the Regiment's Association to support welfare needs, to maintain Regimental customs and traditions and other charitable activities.

Achievements and Performance

The Fund has maintained and strengthened contact with the Branches and their members aimed at fostering comradeship, supporting welfare needs amongst former members of the Regiment and in maintaining the Regiment's profile within Sussex. The biannual Newsletter and the annual magazine, the Roussillon Gazette, have continued production together with regular updates provided by the Chairman of the Corporate Trustee. Visits have been made to Branches by the Chairman and others. The performance of the Fund is reported within the Financial Review.

Public Benefit

The Corporate Trustee understands the requirement to observe and adhere to the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit (PBI) and they believe that Fund delivers this satisfactorily.

Financial Review

Receipts and Payments

The financial statement shows a surplus this year of £ 5256 (2024 — Surplus £ 5447), including a grant from the Trustees of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the successors in title to the Royal Sussex Regiment, of £ 3,000.

Investments

The value of our assets has remained relatively stable, at £ 211,520 (2024 - £ 205,528) including cash of £ 16,694 (2024 - £ 46,438) after the reinvestment of £ 35,000 to increase Income. The Corporate Trustee is taking professional advice to develop an investment strategy which will enhance earnings in future, so that the Fund's Objectives can be better supported.

Going Concern

The Corporate Trustee is confident that the Charity remains a Going Concern. Chris Argent had mentioned in his report that the Limited Company account is running with a very small balance which can lead to careful management by the Treasurer. It was suggested that a total of £4,000 be transferred from the Association Trust account (War Memorial) and from the Museum Trust account. Proposed Ian Newman. Seconded Richard Buckman. Carried 17 for 0 against.

Governance

The Governance Report as prepared By Nigel Russell had been circulated to all Branches prior to the meeting and is set out below. Nigel Russell stressed the importance of the legacy in handing down the traditions and heritage of the Royal Sussex. He also pointed out that Benevolence was already being handled by PWRR.

Introduction

1. This report to the members for the Association's General Meeting Is made for the last calendar year, since our last AGM. The Governance, Finance and Nominations Committee (GN&FC) met last in November 2025.

Association's Future

1. In October 2025, the Association held a strategy day, attended by representatives of all Branches and the Directors, to consider the Association's future. The record of proceedings is available to view on the website. In short, the conclusions drawn recognised that, simply due to the impact of age, the Association was in decline and in danger of becoming unmanageable. However, there was a strong appetite to

preserve the Collection and the Regiment's heritage, its traditions, its events and its connections within the County. The meeting also recognised that a closer connection with PWRR was a way forward likely to achieve declared ambitions for the future.

2. It was decided at that meeting to set up a team to recommend how best this may be achieved and a "Road Map Group" (RMG) was established for that purpose.

3. The RMG met several times during late 2025 and during 2026 including with HQ PWRR. At a Branches Forum held on 20th May 2026, copies of a draft Memorandum of Understanding outlining proposals for change were shared with Branch representatives who were asked to consider its detail and report the views of members back to the Board by this forthcoming AGM.

4. In summary the MoU has proposed:

    a. *Museum/Collection* Significant artefacts and all records to be housed within a planned new extension of the West Sussex Record Office (WRSO) in Chichester. Items that cannot be stored for reasons of space will either be loaned out to other museums (such as Dover Castle, NAM etc;) or sold. PWRR has agreed to manage the collection at WSRO on our behalf.

    b. *Legacy* The Regiment's legacy within the County, such as the maintenance of St George's Chapel and Regimental artefacts within, support for our existing events, commemorating our memorial sites and graves, connections with the local authority etc; would be conducted by elements of the two PWRR Reserve Companies in the County. PWRR has agreed to this in principle, but more definition is required yet.

    c. *Charities & Finance* Our two charities, the Association Trust and the Museum Trust, would be handed over to PWRR Benevolent Fund to administer, ringfencing our funds in support of Royal Sussex activities. All existing funds would be handed over to PWRR for this purpose. PWRR has agreed to this in principle.

    d. *Benevolence* Managing acts of benevolence to qualified soldiers and their widows does not change. This has been in PWRR's hands since 2005.

    e. *Events* PWRR would be asked to maintain our three events, being the St. Georges Day Service, the Royal Sussex Stakes at Goodwood and the Quebec Dinner. PWRR has agreed to this in principle.

    f. *Branches* The current proposal is that branches will have the option to form a new alliance with QUEENS and/or PWRR, to stay as they are, or to disband. The Board is awaiting the results of branch feedback at the forthcoming AGM before making any further recommendations.

    g. *The Royal Sussex Regiment Association Limited* Once all elements of our existing business have been restructured with PWRR, the company would wind up.

5. It is important to stress that no agreements have been signed at this point and that

the views of members will be vital before we can proceed further.

Directors

6. There has been one addition to the Board of Directors during the year – Andrew Wilson (Chichester Branch). The Board therefore is Chris Argent (Financial Director), Alan Bernhem-Parter (Heritage), Denise Carr (Welfare), Greg Fielder (Communications), Barry Lane (Chairman & Heritage), Nigel Russell (Vice Chairman and Governance), Ian Smith (Secretary & Treasurer) and Andrew Wilson (Events).

   Alan Bernhem-Parter, Chis Argent and Denise Carr completed their first three-year term as Directors in December 2025 and were re-elected for a further three-year term.

Compliance

7. No new policies have been introduced and all existing polices, job descriptions and terms of reference are up to date in respect of their review as at the date of this AGM.

   Policies are available to view on the Association's website.

Nominations

8. There was one item to consider during the year and that was the proposed election of Andrew Wilson as a Director. The GF&NC considered his cv and subsequently made a recommendation to the Board that he should be elected. Once his suitability as Director was established under the Fit and Proper persons regulation, he was duly elected for a 3 year term.

Finance

9. The Finance Director's report is shared under separate cover.

   Nigel Russell read out in full the rule change that was to be voted on later in the meeting.
   It was proposed by Ian Newman and seconded by Mike Stenning that this should go forward. Votes for 17. Nil against.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: This had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Shop

The Associations' online shop opened in September 2021 and the sales figures to date are as follows, with their comparison figures given in last year's AGM :

	2026	2025	2024
Total Sales to date, incl. P&P :	£ 3,058	£ 2,640	£ 1,766
Total Cost of Sales, incl. P&P to date :	£ 1,385	£ 1,231	£ 846
Total Profit to date* :	£ 1,673	£ 1,409	£ 920

* This figure does not take into account the small percentage charge levied by the online platform that process the credit card payments.

During the course of this year the shop has now sold all of its inherited blazer badges and regimental bow ties. A decision awaits on whether replacements are sourced. The 2025 edition of the Roussillon Gazette carried an advertisement for the 'shop' but owing to no sales being recorded from it was decided not to include the advertisement in this year's copy.

Website

There is still a high volume of visitors to the website as witnessed by the amount of contact emails received. The majority of enquiries is still from relatives wishing to find out more about their ancestors service with the regiment. Likewise there is still a small but significant number approaching the Association offering medals and memorabilia to the museum collection. The donation page continues to attract a small amount of income, but it cannot be viewed as significant.

Roussillon Gazette

World renowned auction house Spink of London agreed to advertise on the back cover of the Roussillon Gazette for the next three years. Specialising in stamps, coins, and bank notes, Spink also have a global presence in the sale of military medals and collectables.
Distribution of the Gazette will, as last year, be to Sussex and adjacent county museums, military clubs and associations and individuals who are considered appropriate. The purpose is still part of the drive towards public awareness, and for the first time ever an advertisement for membership to our association has been included within the publication.

Contact Record Management Database

Branch Secretaries are reminded that the accuracy of our membership database relies on any changes to their branch members contact details being passed to the Association Secretary in a timely manner.

Greg Fielder thanked Barry Lane for the production of the Rousso. There was a request from Barry Lane for full details of those who had died so that they could be recorded in the Roussillon Gazette. e.g. Date of death, Battalion, Rank etc.,

WELFARE:

The report was as follows: Over the past year I have made many home and hospital visits. I am finding more veterans need lifts to hospital appointments. We had a veteran taken ill on a cruise ship and I was contacted by his partner asking me to message his family and close friends. He was in hospital with pneumonia for 5 days. On Remembrance Sunday we had a veteran taken ill at our local War Memorial. His daughter was contacted and transported him to hospital where he was admitted with pneumonia. It is so important to carry a contact number with you.
Bob Piper the eldest member of mid Sussex Branch was admitted to hospital with a broken ankle. I am pleased to say Bob is well on the way to recovery and turned up at our last Branch meeting. Over the past year Bob was invited to Westminster Abbey, lunch at Buckingham Palace, and a Buckingham Palace garden party, where he was presented to Princess Ann.
Our eldest member of the Royal Sussex association John Crocker sadly passed away during the year. Three standards attended with members from Chichester, Mid Sussex and East Grinstead branches.
The 'Not Forgotten' invited Mid Sussex branch to their Christmas party at Bexhill, a

Buckingham Palace garden party, and Danny House of Hurstpierpoint for an afternoon of entertainment. All the veterans enjoyed a free meal.

I am very lucky to have the PWRR , SSAFA and the RBL to call on if I need help with any cases. As you can see from my report most of it is about my Branch. If you have any cases you would like me to tell the members about or with which you need help or advice please contact me.

Like last year I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

RULE CHANGE:

As mentioned at the end of the Governance Report an amendment was necessary to bring the membership rules up to date. A vote was taken on a change to Rule 3.3 and 3.4 to allow a member to belong to more than one Branch. The revised rules in question are set out below.

A vote was taken which proved unanimously in favour of this change.

3.3 Candidature New members will be welcomed by the submission of an application form either held by Branch Secretaries or the Association Secretary. Branch members are to be proposed and seconded by existing members of any Branch and formally introduced to the supporting Branch members on at least one separate occasion before membership can be confirmed. Once the Branch Chair has satisfied himself or herself that the applicant is suitable, will support the Objects of the Association and will contribute to the well being of the Branch, he or she may confirm the candidate's membership in writing to the candidate and upon the successful receipt of the subscription (see Rule 3.6). Once confirmed, the application form is to be retained by the Branch with a copy submitted to the Association Secretary, whereupon the newly appointed member will be placed on the Association's Register of Members. Non Branch members and Friends will dispatch their application form to the Association Secretary.
Candidates may apply to join any Branch where their names will be registered by the Branch Secretary and recorded by the Association Secretary, and where they will pay their annual Branch & Association subscription. In the interests of camaraderie and social interaction, registered members may also apply to, or be invited to attend other Branches' meetings and events. However, such guest status does not permit their appointment to officer positions, voting rights or participation in meeting debates within that Branch. If requested to do so by the Branch Secretary they may be invited to pay a Branch only subscription in addition to that of their own registered Branch.

3.4 Entitlements All categories of Members are entitled to attend any Association or Branch activity, to enjoy the benefits of social grouping and to expect the welfare support of the Association where appropriate (see Rule 5). Members should expect to receive regular communications from the Association to keep them in touch with events, activities and items of interest displayed through the website. It is incumbent upon members to ensure that their own contact details are up to date to allow this to occur efficiently. In addition to receiving periodic Association newsletters, members will have access to the Association's library of historical records including the tercentenary DVD compiled by the West Sussex County Record Office in 2001, Richard Buckman's "The Royal Sussex Regiment Military Honours and Awards" and John Ainsworth's Regimental History.
Members are entitled to play a full role in the administration of the Branch where they are primarily registered. They may participate in formal meetings, vote on resolutions and may apply to become a Branch Officer, for example.

Members are entitled to have the Association Standards at their funeral, if available. Ex-Royal Sussex members may also have use of the regimental flag.

AOB:

Richard Buckman asked after Guy Radlett who had made his walk/ march along the coastline of Sussex. He was advised that he was attending the dinner later that day.

Roger Lintott asked about the future for those 'non-served' members of the Association. Barry Lane advised that a way forward for them would be discussed with PWRR and pointed out that what they do to a great extent enabled the Branches to continue.

Richard Buckman asked whether the towns that had given the 'Freedom' to the Regiment should be approached to give support to the Association's future. Nigel Russell replied than generally speaking the various political parties that made up the Councils of those towns and cities were not supportive of the Armed Forces.

Rod Ulrich enquired on behalf of a member of Chichester Branch whether, now that the Duke of Sussex had returned to the UK, would the RSRA committee be contacting him for involvement in any matters "Royal Sussex". The Chairman replied that King Charles had made the position of Prince Harry quite clear and that no contact would be made.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1600 hrs