

**Royal National Lifeboat Institution**

**Annual General Meeting of the Governors**

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held in person at 30 Euston Square,  
London NW1 2FB at 2pm on Wednesday 18 June 2025

Present:

Janet Legrand (Chair of the RNLI Trustee Board)

Fiona Fell (Deputy Chair of the RNLI Trustee Board)

John Killeen (Trustee)

Paddy McLaughlin (Trustee)

Sonia Modray (Trustee)

Apologies:

Jim Islam (Treasurer)

Andy Jordan (Trustee)

Mark Sedwill (Trustee)

Mike Sturrock (Trustee)

Mark Wordsworth (Trustee)

Denis Woulfe (Senior Independent Trustee)

In Attendance:

Peter Sparkes (Chief Executive)

Ross Barraclough (Chief Engineer and Technical Director)

Sarah Davies (Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services)

Claire Deuchar (Chief Information Officer)

Rob Faricy (Chief Delivery Officer)

Carolyn Greene (Chief People Officer)

Leanna Lakes (Chief Operating Officer and Director of Regions)

Together with Council members, Governors and Guests

## **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Governors, supports and Friends of the RNLI to the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM). She was joined by the RNLI's Chief Executive, Peter Sparkes, members of the Executive Team and a number of Trustees. The Chair noted that the AGM was being streamed live to those Governors who were unable to attend in person, a recording of the charity report would be shared on the RNLI website following the conclusion of the AGM. Only those governors present in person were eligible to vote on the resolutions proposed on the agenda. It was confirmed that the Governors present constituted a quorum.

The Chair invited those Governors who were present in person to hold any questions not relating to those resolutions being proposed to the meeting until the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting. Governors unable to ask questions, due to there being insufficient time available, were invited to complete and return a question form, copies of which were available from the registration desk.

## **2. Minutes**

It was noted that the minutes of the AGM held on the 20 June 2024 had been circulated to the Governors in advance online. These would be signed by the Chair as evidence of the business undertaken at the meeting.

## **3. Charity Report**

Peter Sparkes presented the charity report which provided an overview of the Institution's activity in 2024, in which the RNLI celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He provided a number of updates and highlights across lifesaving operations, water safety, fundraising and the current financial position.

In recognition of a rescue undertaken in the English Channel, under difficult circumstances, the crew of the Walmer lifeboat were invited on stage to discuss the rescue. The Chief Executive presented the crew with the thanks of the Institution, inscribed on vellum.

As part of the report the Chief Executive invited Angela Rook, Associate Director of Fundraising and Marketing, on stage to discuss the anniversary of the RNLI College. Angela spoke about the history of the college, the range of training delivered and the benefits to the RNLI.

Alan Lipp and Mhairi Ross were invited on stage to explain the details of their rowing expedition to fundraise for the RNLI. Their trip had aimed to raise £30,000 and was currently at £78,000 and they had encountered support from other RNLI volunteers all around the country during the trip.

The Chief Executive invited Leanna Lakes, Chief Operating Officer, on stage to introduce herself and give her first reflections on her time at the RNLI. Leanna detailed

that she had been impressed with the dedication to the RNLI's purpose and that this presented many opportunities to strengthen RNLI's 'One Crew' ethos by reducing complications and working with volunteers on future changes.

#### **4. Vote of Thanks**

Sonia Modray, RNLI Trustee, proposed a vote of thanks to all of the RNLI's volunteers for their amazing work in supporting the RNLI. The audience joined her in a round of applause for the dedicated and hardworking people who gave up their time and did such incredible work.

#### **5. Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2024**

It was resolved that the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024 be and are hereby approved.

#### **6. Re-Election of RNLI Council Members**

It was resolved that James Allan, Simon Bowen, Ffion Chambers, Allen Corlett, Louise Evans, Paul Jevons, Jacquie Leitch, James Marshall, Lyn McSeveney, Sinead Reen and Simon Robinson be and are hereby appointed to the RNLI Council for a second term of up to three years.

It was resolved that Andrew Dixon, Peter Lloyd and Hugh Tully be and are hereby appointed to the RNLI Council for a third term of up to three years.

The Chair thanked Alison Appleyard and Jonathan Hart - retiring Council Members, for their time on the RNLI Council.

#### **7. Appointment of Auditors – BDO LLP**

It was resolved that the Resolution to appointed BDO LLP as Auditors to hold office from the conclusion of the meeting until the AGM in 2026 and to grant the Trustee Board the power to decide the level of pay for the Auditors was carried and hereby approved.

#### **8. Special Note of Thanks**

Fiona Fell, Deputy Chair of the RNLI Trustee Board expressed thanks to Sonia Modray, RNLI Trustee, who was retiring from the Board following her completion of a nine-year term. Sonia had served on the Finance Committee, Chaired the Property Committee and acted as the Board's Designated Safeguarding Trustee along with being a member of several Special Interest Groups.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

The Chair responded to a question about the ability to hold the AGM virtually and explained that the current byelaws did not allow virtual AGM's but could be considered in future reviews of the byelaws.

The Chief Finance Officer answered a question on the cost of the increase in employers' national insurance contributions, stating they had cost the RNLI £1.6million.

The Chief Executive responded to a question around the support given to crews operating in the English Channel, he observed that overall, the rescues accounted for 1.2% of the RNLI's work annually but came with considerable challenges. Support was being delivered prior to exposure to traumatic incidents and what crews may encounter, as well as post events where the TRIM procedure, which is used across the armed forces and emergency services, has been adopted.

A question was asked about the reforms to the fundraising branch structures. Angela Rook responded that the changes should help to enable and support branches and create a more streamlined approach to the administration required. The Engagement team and community managers were able to support fundraising volunteers with the changes and understand the needs of the different communities.

Claire Deuchar answered a question in relation to the data available on the timeliness of call outs which showed that 60% of services were noncritical, with the majority made in good weather with a search time on average of less than 10 minutes. Peter Sparkes further explained that this data had helped to contribute to the future lifeboat strategy and determining the assets needed to respond to changing demand, especially in the nearshore area. For example, this had led to the decision to develop a Coastal Lifeboat and to adjust the Atlantic 85 class to a "2+2" configuration.

A Governor relayed to the AGM how she had first been exposed to the RNLI at age three and how this had "planted the seed" for her lifelong support of the institution.

A Governor reported that the feedback they received from station visits was that volunteers felt burdened by bureaucracy. Peter Sparkes responded that he was aware of such concerns and was working to address them with a revised operating model, better metrics and a more customer centric model for working with volunteers. A volunteering strategy was also being commissioned. These would take time but would help to reduce the burden on volunteers and assist with recruitment, training and retention.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

.....  
Chair