

MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2002 at Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1

Meeting Commenced at 1000hrs and a minute's silence for the victims of September 11th, 2001 was observed in memory of all who suffered in this atrocity.

1. In Attendance:

Veronica King (VK) Keith Walker (KW) Ian Withers (IW) John Edward (JE)

Rick Howatson (RH)

2. Apologies received from Stuart Withers (SW) David Waight (DW)

3. Minutes of Meeting of 24th April 2002

Minutes duly approved and signed

Proposed by KW, seconded by JE

4. Central European Representative of WAPI

RH was welcomed by the Chair and asked to leave meeting whilst discussion took place regarding his application for this position. Discussion lead by JE with major input from IW. Both JE and IW fully supported the application.

Proposed by JE, seconded by KW, agreed by IW and SW

RH invited to participate in rest of the proceedings. It was requested that RH attend to enlarge the membership in his area. It was agreed that membership material be forwarded to RH for him to use in promotion.

Zurich Conference:

RH submitted a report (copies distributed at the meeting). Raised point re: name tag showing WAPI membership.

5. UK2 Content

IW stated: It was pointed out that the Moderator is totally unbiased. It is felt that the Moderator is being too 'narrow' as to restriction.

KW stated: He felt that the e-group contained a lot of rubbish in the past but that now it has been restricted it is a better e-mail group. Indicating that the group had grown. IW disagreed. JE stated: that e-mail group must reflect that it and WAPI was worldwide.

The criteria for the Moderator to work within:

a. No advertising

b. No libellous, defamatory or derogatory statements

c. All posting content to be sector specific

KW pointed out that the Moderator is not in our business. That WAPI messages must be signed off as WAPI and not Priority, K.K Investigations etc. That this could be seen as advertising which is not allowed.

IW strongly disagreed.

JE advised that the matter ought to be brought before a full council meeting to make a decision on.

Proposal from IW that each council member put a WAPI signature. Each council member generate a WAPI signature.

JE suggested that that all major items should be sent from WAPI and not from individual council members.

6. UK2 Membership dispute handling

JE stated that the group is not there for people to use as a platform to disparage other members.

IW: The Moderator must be careful to answer the messages. It would be an idea to get legal advice re: slander/libel implications.

In the event of an insulting message by any member the moderator will seek a retraction and an apology. If that is not forthcoming the offended member will be invited to submit a rebuff to be approved and/or edited by the moderator and published.

7. WAPI information and website

KW suggested that the WAPI web site should be expanded and that we should promote WAPI via the E-group by using the WAPI signature.

8. Sub-Committees PSIA/Licensing, DPA/Watch, Media/Law/PI Watch

IW Proposed that members take on tasks for the benefit of the other members. A request for active members be placed on the E-group regarding this.

JE questioned whether we are ready for this at this time. It was felt that sub-committees was too 'grand' and that using single members would be more beneficial. That it would be WAPI members only.

Proposed by IW, Seconded by JE. IW will submit a draft for overview by the other members of the council.

9. PI Magazine

IW states that we urgently require more articles from WAPI members to be submitted for the magazine. KW proposed that the next article should be about WAPI by SW.

Proposed by KW, Seconded by JE.

10. Accounting Procedures

Accounts to be more transparent to allay fears of impropriety. All cheques to be signed by Treasurer and any other council member.

11. Miriam Ettisch-Euchelmaier (ME-E)

KW suggested that ME-E be awarded honorary membership of WAPI.

Proposed by KW, Seconded by JE

(KW subsequently spoke with ME-E who said that she thought it would be a great honour to accept such an award and thanks the Association for considering her

worthy of such honour).

12. Newcomers section

KW asks whether WAPI should have a 'newcomers' section.

IW and JE agreed that a second group within the main group was a waste of time and opposed the idea on the basis that newcomers would be better served by dealing with experienced and professional investigators.

13. Change of Company Secretary (WAPI Ltd)

Caroline Withers, the current Company Secretary, wishes to resign. KW suggested that the General Secretary could be the Company Secretary.

DW had already indicated that he consider the appointment of Company Secretary of WAPI Ltd in addition to his responsibilities as General Secretary of the Association.

KW Proposed that DW be appointed Company Secretary to run parallel as General Secretary, Seconded by IW

14. Membership Secretary's Report

Report submitted and read to the meeting by KW.

IW suggested we use David Bowra to put out press release to National and Trade Press on behalf of WAPI.

15. Membership Renewals

JE proposed Vic Lewis, GC approved

JE proposed Raymond Flanagan, GC approved

KW proposed Peter Evans, JE Seconded

IW proposed Andy Essex, JE Seconded

16. New Orleans Report

JE: Any member of general council who attends any event and represents WAPI should have a package to take eg: Brochures, Banner, Advertisements etc. and be provided with a formatted brief.

JE presented an overview on the New Orleans Conference that he attended on behalf of WAPI.

17. Any Other Business

JE proposed that WAPI should encourage as many members as possible to attend the Sheffield Conference.

The general council formally acknowledged and gave thanks to Veronica King for her attendance and assistance as the 'pro-tem' general secretary.

IW will attend Maryland Association of Private Investigators as the WAPI representative.

Congratulations were proffered to RH for his appointment as the Central European Representative for Europe from his base in Spain.

IW passed on thanks received from the NALI (National Association of Legal Investigators) in the USA for the continued support and Donations made to assist in their endeavours led by Robert Townsend - Chair NALI legislative Committees, to ensure that the Legislators do not completely close access to informational data resources, as has happened in the EU. Strong and well founded lobbying in the corridors of power in Washington DC have been able to resist a complete shut down of access to PI's acting for genuine Clients.

It was agreed that WAPI would continue to support in every way possible the efforts of NALI in this regard.

Next Meeting of General Council on 4th December at 1100hrs at Southwark Bridge Road venue.