

**Scotland Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday the 29th of September 2022 (17:00-19:00), Held Virtually.**

**Present:** Huw Sherrard, Secretary (HS); Alan Hamilton (AH); Mike McCourt (MMcC); Ally Gemmell (AG); Sue Raw (SRa); Kate Thomas (KT); Stuart Roberts (SRo); Andrew Ward (AW); Iain Findlay (IF).

**Attending:** Deborah Moretti, Veterans Welfare Service (DM).

**Apologies:** Jim Wilson (JW); Laura Cox (LC); Don Young (DY).

**1. Welcome & Overview**

Due to a lack of Chair or Vice Chair present, the committee elected AH to chair the meeting.

**2. Previous Minutes**

The committee approved the previous minutes.

**3. Veterans Welfare Service Presentation**

DM introduced themselves, their role, and the VWS. They provided an overview of the history and structure of the organisation, their placement within the hierarchy of defence and veterans service, and their provision and the referral. AH opened the floor to any questions from the Committee. AG asked how a specific situation would be handled in relation to the compensation schemes. DM answered, and offered to provide additional information following the meeting. AH thanked DM for presenting to the committee.

**4. Recruitment of Chair**

AH introduced the agenda topic, and informed the Committee they would be unable to serve as an acting Chair on a long term basis, though there would be an official recruitment advert for a new Chair in the near future. HS introduced the governance and statutory obligations regarding chairship, and that the Committee would be able to elect a new Vice Chair to chair meetings in the meantime at the next meeting. SRo suggested that the opportunity and process should be sent out in a communication to all members. MMcC agreed, citing otherwise low attendance numbers. AW echoed both SRo and MMcC's comments. HS agreed to send an email out to Committee members in advance of the next meeting.

AH informed the Committee with an update on relevant activity in relation to Item 6 on the agenda, including an upcoming meeting to be held in London

**5. Update on CPG, DWMS, Annual Report**

AH informed the Committee that the last Cross Party Group meeting and the DWMS did not take place due to the official mourning on the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and that the Annual Report was brief - developed by AH both and LC.

**6. Update on UK Chairs Activity & Conference**

(Discussed under Item 4.)

**7. Sub Groups**

AH described an intention to review the VAPCs Sub Committees. SRo again highlighted issues with attendance and commitment within the Committee, and suggested that any review should

be towards dissolving Sub Committees. HS agreed to send out relevant information regarding the Committee's obligations regarding Sub Committees in advance of the next meeting.

**8. AOCB**

MMcC described issues with a lack of response from HMNB Clyde, and SR suggested a contact that might support MMcC with this issue. SRa described similar issues in Angus, and that there may be similar issues in Dundee.

The Committee voted to thank AH for chairing the meeting.

**9. Dates for Diary**

AH informed the Committee of a number of upcoming events, including a 51X Brief at Redford Barracks, and the Committee's next meeting on the 24th of November in Edinburgh.

**Signed as true on 24/11/22 by Alan Hamilton, Chair:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.