

MINUTES OF THE 1ST EAST MIDLANDS VETERANS ADVISORY AND
PENSION COMMITTEE HELD AT THE OFFICERS MESS, PRINCE
WILLIAM OF GLOUCESTER BARRACKS, GRANTHAM ON

Present:

Mr Peter Poole – Chairman
Mr R Boyfield
Mr K Meakin
Mr C Harrison
Mr D Harding

In Attendance:

Mr L Henson
Mr J Berry
Mr T Bryant

Apologies:

Mr W Dixon Dodds
Mr C Streater
Mr D Donovan

Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions.

The Chairman warmly welcomed all those attending the first meeting of the E Midlands VA & PC. He regretted the fact it had not been possible to find a date to suit all but hoped that it would be easier in the future.

He asked those present to give a short resume of their experience as an introduction to the Committee. He asked that members provide a short pen picture to be included with the minutes.

Item 2 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of a conflict of interest.

Item 3 – Introductory Remarks

The Chairman made a number of points about the new Committees:

- Appointments. To date, and in common with a number of other Committees, the East Midlands was under recruited . He asked that members seek suitable candidates for a second round of recruiting which would also include the appointment of our members who, at the present time, are co-opted.
- Internal Appointments. There was an urgent need to make two appointments within the Committee, a Secretary and a Vice Chairman. It was decided to leave the appointment of Vice Chairman until more members of the Committee were present but Mr Henson kindly agreed to be the Secretary with effect from the next meeting.

- It was agreed that the Committee needed to have a strategic direction and to achieve that a Strategic Plan should be produced. The Chairman undertook to produce a draft plan for consideration at the next meeting.
- Sustainability was important for the success of the newly formed Committees and those present accepted that individuals would have to take a significant role in the operation of the Committee, particularly as the SPVA was unable to provide as much assistance as had previously been the case.

Item 4 - Chairmans Conference

All members had received the minutes of the Chairman's Conference prior to the meeting. Peter Poole highlighted some of the major issues including the change of Chief Executive - Jon Parkin has been appointed. Other items discussed included the study into the SPVA, Support to VA & PCs and their enhanced role. The committee agreed that a number of sub groups might well be the way to make best use of the wider range of talent that was now available in the East Midlands. It was agreed that the structure of the Committee would be a subject for the next meeting .

Item 5 – Partnership Working

It was agreed that there could well be merit in partnership working. By this the Committee felt that by choosing the issue and identifying other interested parties we could become “force multipliers” for the benefit of veterans in this region.

Item 6 – Any Other Business

- Training. There was a need for some training and background reading for some members of the Committee. The Chairman agreed to provide:
 - The Military Covenant.
 - The Murrison Report
 - The Pilot Sites Study (When Available)
 - Kings College Study
 - MOD study into Vets in Prison
 - COBSEO details.
- Familiarisation Courses. All new members agreed to make themselves available for familiarisation courses at Norcross.
- Briefing Day. It was suggested that opportunities for Briefing days within Councils be investigated. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

Item 7 – Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks on Monday 17th January 2011