



Minutes: London Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee Meeting

Venue: - RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, LONDON, W1B 1AR

Monday 12th March 2018

Time 11.00 – 15.00

Present	Apologies	Observers / Guests
Lynn Verity (LV) – Chairman Jim Blake (JB) – Deputy Chairman Gill Grigg (GG) Alex Jablonowski (AJ) Penny Long (PL) Julie Thain Smith (JTS) Roger Hood (RH) Paul Clabburn (PC) Ken Courtenay (KC) Heather Nicholson (HN) Bob Money (BM) Jim Evans (JME) Jules Eaton (JE) Marion Knight (secretary MK)	Andrew Ross (AR)	

ITEM 1: Introductions	ACTION
1. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting	

<p>ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies for absence were accepted from committee member AR 	
<p>ITEM 3: DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chairman reminded Committee members that they must declare any interest arising out of their personal/business life which could conflict with VAPC business. 	
<p>ITEM 4: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The minutes of the meeting of the 13th December 2017 were reviewed by the Committee and were passed as a true and accurate record of the meeting of the 13th December 2017. MK will arrange to send to Norcross for publication 	<p>MK</p>
<p>ITEM 5: – DRAFT HANDBOOK</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This was circulated to Committee Members before the meeting 2. There have been no major changes to the content of the Handbook 3. There is a separate Terms of Reference and the Committee questioned why they were not included within the handbook 4. The Handbook and Terms of Reference will be discussed at the Chairmen’s Conference being held on the 13th and 14th March 2018 	
<p>ITEM 6: REPORTS FROM THE SUB GROUPS:</p> <p>POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – GILL GRIGG (report circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GG explained there needs to be a review of the Constitution/Governance Document for the Chairmen and the Chairmen’s Conference and referred to points a, b and c of this element of the report. Chairman said she would raise this at the Chairmen’s conference if at all possible but pointed out that as she had to attend a funeral it was likely she would miss some items on the agenda and this could be one of them 2. AFCSQR – point discussed again – KC, GG and JE to formulate an approach as suggested in the report 3. PC asked whether it would be appropriate for the Committee to talk to the Armed Forces All Party Committee. KC explained there would need to be a specific topic and suggested the proposed Centenary celebrations. It was agreed RH would make an informal approach to Jonny Mercer 4. GG highlighted the most successful element of the Veterans Gateway was Pensions awareness 5. GG – Justice for Widows Campaign is specifically related to widows who have remarried <p>HEALTH AND WELFARE – PENNY LONG (report circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PL went through the main points of the report, specifically referencing the NHS London Armed Forces Network Forum which PL and JTS had attended on 10th January 2018 2. JE had contributed to the report and he specifically referenced his contribution on end of life care 3. JTS informed the Committee her longer-term piece of work with the GP’s Recognition Scheme continues <p>HOUSING – PAUL CLABBURN (report circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PC talked through work his group had been doing with the London Boroughs on Armed Forces Champions. PC and the sub group want to contact each Champion 	<p>LV</p> <p>RH</p> <p>PC & ALL</p>

<p>(post May) and canvas whether they would be interested in attending a Housing seminar. PC asked all Committee members to support the group by agreeing to contact some of the boroughs. PC to district a list to all Committee members who agreed to let him know which boroughs they would be happy to contact</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The sub group are having ongoing conversations with the Mayor's office, JB an PC had attended a meeting and the actions are included within the report PC went through 5 main issues of focus for Veterans and all Committee members agreed they seemed sensible and linked in appropriately with the sub groups work PC will be writing to Ed Kirton Darling and Kent University with an update <p>EMPLOYMENT - ALEX JABLONOWSKI (report circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AJ - Barclays Employment Scheme has many active users with 500 mentors working well. The real issue is a lot more employers are required to join the scheme and advertise jobs. AJ shared his concerns that he believes Barclays will back away from the scheme and keep it in house if more employers cannot be found AJ continues to work on other contacts and asked for the Committee's support with contacts they may have as he explained the Employment project sells itself to prospective employers once they have a "foot in the door" <p>CENTENARY – ROGER HOOD – (report circulated prior to the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee had a discussion with regards to the proposals for the Centenary celebrations, the potential target audiences for the proposals and timeframes etc. Given the input from the Committee during this discussion it was agreed that the subgroup will come back to the Committee at the June 2018 meeting with details of interim progress and hopefully a final plan for the September 2018 meeting <p>AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION – JIM BLAKE & PAUL CLABBURN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PC said no one is really looking at the website now but he had changed the lead article 	<p>PC</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>ITEM 7: RECRUITMENT – JIM BLAKE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment for the outstanding VA&PC vacancies will take place between 16th-20th April 2018. There are 4 vacancies and 4 suitable applicants 	
<p>ITEM 8: – TREASURERS REPORT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £10 remains as the balance in the bank account 	
<p>ITEM 9: – DATA PROTECTION – GILL GRIGG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> GG reminded the Committee that new Data Protection laws come into force on the 25th and 26th May 2018. The Chairman confirmed this was an agenda item for the Chairman's Conference 	
<p>ITEM 10: – DECEMBER 2018 MEETING – GILL GRIGG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Committee agreed Monday 3rd December 2018 for the December Meeting. GG will liaise with the RAF Benevolent Fund with regards the meeting room and asked committee members to e mail her possible venues for lunch 	<p>GG & All</p>
<p>ITEM 11: – A.O.B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Dave Luscombe from Veterans UK will attend The June 2018 meeting There was nothing further to discuss under this agenda point 	