

VAPC Meeting 9th January 2019 Record & Actions

Attendees:

Alex Baxter (Acting Chairman)
John Topping (Secretary)
Lt Col (Rtd) Alan Skidmore
Maj (Rtd) Duncan Bell
Alex Bentley
Capt Peter Mason
Ms Helen Singleton
Dr David Jolliffe CB
Lt Col (Rtd) Peter Shields MBE QGM
Rick Short

Apologies:

Gary Collins
Tim Cole
Andrew Palmer
Dan Isherwood (VWS)
Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Mike Chambers MBE

Observer/Guests:

Maj Anselm Allen

Absent

Craig Gadd

Item

Discussion

1. General Items.

a. Introductions, apologies and minutes of last meeting/matters arising. –

i. The Acting Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies confirmed. Alex said that because the new Chairman had not yet been appointed they had to be prepared for a quickly arranged meeting once this happened. The secretary would arrange an alternative meeting place in case the RF&CA here in York was not available.

Alex informed members that he would be attending a 4 Bde Meeting in respect of regional Covenant bid applications (previously attended by Tony) to ensure continuity of business.

ii. All apologies noted.

Minutes of last meeting/Matters arising. - The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.

i. Minutes of the 12th September 2018, Item 1 General Items – Action Point. Should read Andrew Palmer and not Alan Palmer

ii. Alex would write to the outgoing Chairman on behalf of all members thanking Tony for his excellent stewardship during the 8 years he was chairman

iii. Alan Skidmore informed Members as to developments with regards the anomalies with National Insurance (NI) contributions for the wives of veterans. He had been in direct contact with Johnny Mercer MP who feels that it would be a good project for him to become involved with.

b. Recruiting 2018/19.

- i. Two people had applied to join the Y & H VAPC. Obviously the interviews would take place on the new Chairman had been appointed.
- ii. Members were still encouraged to try and recruit new applicants.

c. Reports: Members external events; Quarterly Newsheet items.

i. A Ripon Beer Call is being held on the 23rd January 19. This is a continuance of the Ripon 'Drop in' initiative. It will be an informal information gathering and dissemination attempt aimed at veterans and their families.

ii. Major Anselm Allan provide a PPP regarding developments of several initiatives aimed at new recruits with the objective of improving their wellbeing and a retention. The PPP file was circulated to all members.

iii. Major Anselm Allan mention the tri-service report, "Lifting the lid on transition: The families' experience and the support they need". A copy of this report can be found at; <https://aff.org.uk/resources/lifting-the-lid-on-transition-the-families-experience-and-the-support-they-need/>. All you need to do his hit the download button to obtain a copy.

d. Management plan: Held in abeyance until the new Chairman is appointed.

2. NHS Medical Support.

a. GP Services and Data recording.

b. Mental Health Services – update from Sub Group members if available. Alex provided an update for members. Combat Stress was working well. TILS was now back up and running. Multi agency approach works well in Lincolnshire. Hull is exceptional in coordinating approaches to veterans.

c. GP Surgery update – Alex Baxter will bring this forward to the next meeting.

d.

i. Update from Duncan Bell with regards PTSD and his communications with the RT Hon Tobias Ellwood. The person he was dealing with is now considering alternative options. Duncan emphasised that he could not become involved in this other than state the facts relating to his involvement.

ii. Media interest in PTSD examples is high and is likely to become more active post-Brexit. It is possible negative reporting could potentially impact service recruitment.

iii. The PTSD pension lapses after 10 years.

iv. Colonel David Middleton is to be invited to the next meeting and Maj Anselm will coordinate this.

3. Developing Collaboration in our Region.

a. Local Authority. Update from members.

b. DWP Progression.

i. Major Anselm brought members up to date with all developments.

4. Various.

a. VAPC Centenary (19th August 2021).

i. Members to consider what would be appropriate.

b. Veterans Gateway,

i. David Jolliffe provided figures for the different type of contacts.

ii. The VAPC (Y&H) had for some time received no information on any appeals that had been carried out. – action point for next meeting.

c. Veterans Strategy. Update.

i. The Chairman's Meeting/conference was responsible for introducing items to the new strategy being developed. Alex Baxter will trawl through the previous Chair's minutes and circulate all relevant points prior to next meeting.

d. Veterans Number Plate.

i. Update from Alex Bentley – members were briefed by Alex as to progress. Should be more developments in the next 3 months. He was in direct contact with the Vet's minister and DVLA.

5. VWS Monitoring and Welfare items

i. Dan Isherwood's report was noted by members.

ii. It was noted that WS monitoring had dried up. At a previous meeting it had been agreed that members would be invited to accompany VWS staff on some of their visits. This was in accord with the overview remit of individual VAPC's. The Secretary was tasked to go through the previous minutes and contact VWS to see what progress could be made.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Dates of next meetings

It is intended to hold an emergency meeting as soon as the new Chairman is appointed if required.

Otherwise the next meetings are 8th May 2019 and 11th September 2019.

SUB GROUPS/VAPC APPOINTMENTS

Policy & Governance	HEALTH
Alex Bentley (Chair/Sub-Group Lead) Tim Cole Andrew Palmer (Business Lead) John Topping (VAPC Secretary) Pete Mason Gary Collins	Alex Baxter (Vice Chair/Sub-Group Lead) David Jolliffe Rick Short
	Direct Support
	Pete Shields (Sub-Group Lead) Helen Singleton Duncan Bell