

**MINUTES OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE EAST MIDLANDS VETERANS AND PENSIONS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT THE OFFICERS MESS, PRINCE WILLIAM OF  
GLOUCESTER BARRACKS, GRANTHAM ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH AT 11am**

Present.

Lt. Col. Peter POOLE (PP) Chair.  
Larry HENSON (LH) Meetings Secretary.  
David WILSON (DW) General Secretary  
Barry SMITH (BW)  
Michael WHITEHEAD (MW)  
Charlie STREATHER (CS)  
Paul DAVIES (PD)

Apologies:

Patrick RENDALL (PR)  
BILL DIXON-DODDS (BDD)  
John BERRY (JB)  
Debbie BOWLES (DB)  
Sukbir BINDRA (SB)  
Terl BRYANT (TB)  
David LOMAS (DL)  
Ray BOYFIELD (RB)

**ITEM 1. Welcome/Opening Remarks.**

1. The Chair (PP) welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

**ITEM 2. Declarations of Interest.**

2. There were no declarations of interests that would conflict with the work of the Committee..

**ITEM 3. Apologies for Absence.**

3. The Chair noted the number of people missing from the meeting and asked LH to provide him with a chart showing attendance. Whilst being a member of the Committee is a voluntary role there is an expectation that attendance at the majority of meetings is necessary in order to keep up to date with the issues that are discussed. Similarly Veterans UK require that members who have missed three meetings should be questioned as to their continued capacity to be a member.
4. In accordance with the above the Chairman would write to members who had missed three meetings asking for their views on continued committee membership.
5. After some general discussion it was agreed that there was a need to review:

- The commitment and how this impacted on members (BS)
  - The amount of involvement the Committee expects from members. (PD and DW)
  - Examining any underlying reasons for poor attendance. (CS, MW and PD)
  - Establishing clarity around the roles of each individual promoted inclusiveness (LH)
  - An “off duty” event to allow people to get to know each other better. (CS)
  - MW asked if Members who cannot attend could use Skype or Conference calls or similar.
6. PP commented that the Committee needed a membership that comprised differing backgrounds, experiences and ability to be present all the time. We need the employed, the retired, young and old and those with a military background and none. Inevitably some would be able to deliver more than others – but the value of all input was equal and those less able to contribute in time could still have a huge effect on the work of the Committee and the lives of the veterans we seek to help. All that said he was open to new views/ideas and hoped that suggestions on this subject would be forthcoming.

#### **ITEM 4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2016**

7. PP thanked LH for the minutes and asked if there were issues of accuracy that needed to be addressed.

#### Matters Arising

8. There were a number of matters arising:
- a. Defence National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC) PD talked about the DNRC which is to be opened at Stanford Hall located at Rempstone near Loughborough. It was agreed that there should be engagement with this facility – both in the planning and once it had opened. (PP noted that he is due to meet Gen Sir Tim Greville Chapman (Chairman of the DRNC Board) shortly in connection with his work and will bring the EMVAPC to his attention.
  - b. Armed Forces Day. CS enquired if there was any further news about Armed Forces Day and if we, or the Yorks and Humber VAPC were to be represented.
  - c. Headly Court The issue of the centre opening to veterans, above all the more serious amputees was discussed – particularly from the perspective of what this actually meant for this group – treatment or simply for referral onwards. . PP queried whether this would have an effect on compensation. CS to update as it became clearer
  - d. Hi Tec wheelchairs. PD mentioned new advantage of “hi tec” wheelchairs but asked the committee to note that funding was becoming more difficult to obtain.
  - e. Veterans UK. PP said he was looking to invite Jon PARKIN to our September 2016 meeting. In the same vein CS said he had been in contact with Veterans Welfare Service, they maintain that there is no

problem with a representative attending our meetings but Sandra Price must give authority.

- f. Walk to the Wall. CS said he had enquired about the 'Walk to the Wall' at the National Arboretum but issues with Park and Ride and getting people to the event had become a problem and as a result it was decided not to pursue this.
- g. Christmas lunch. PP said that after discussion Nottingham Region should be the venue of the Christmas function and all agreed with BS and PR to organise.

#### **ITEMS 5 and 6**

9. Covered under matters arising.

#### **ITEM 7 Strategic Direction Sub Committee.**

10. BS reported on the draft strategic plan that he has produced and which is attached to these minutes. Whilst there will be a miscellany of individual thoughts, the time had now arrived when the Committee as a whole must work with Barry to take this project forward. There are issues around individual workload, flexibility, Sub Committee TORs that cannot be done without input from all. This is what Barry needs now. To achieve this we need to identify best practice by gathering objective evidence widely.
11. MW suggested the need to raise awareness of Chief Executives, LH mentioned that letters rather than visits could be a more efficient way of gathering data.

#### **ITEM 8, 9 and 10.**

12. These will be carried over until the next meeting.

#### **ITEM 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

13. PPs response to Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Quinquennial Review to be provided for the Committee.
14. The review into Veterans Mental Health Services is under way. The report is due in September 16.
15. MW mentioned the mileage allowance and the lack of consultation and effect on Members.
16. MW spoke of the Network Rail assistance to the Christmas Lunch - as we are not a charitable body there had been difficulties - but they had now found a way forward.
17. DW mentioned that nothing had been heard on renewal of Committee Membership and PP said he would raise this and come to the next meeting with the latest information.

#### **ITEM 9. Date of Next Meeting**

Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham at 11am on Monday 20th June 2016 The meeting then closed at 1pm.