

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE EAST MIDLANDS VETERANS
ADVISORY AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE HELD AT PRINCE WILLIAM OF
GLOUCESTER BARRACKS, OFFICERS MESS, ON MONDAY 26TH
SEPTEMBER, 2011 at 10.30 AM.

Present:

Lt Col Peter Poole (PP)	Chair
Keith Meakin (KM)	
Terl Bryant (TB)	
David Harding (DH)	
David Donovan (DD)	Vice Chair
Larry Henson (LH)	Secretary
Ray Boyfield (RB)	
Charlie Streater (CS)	

Apologies

Bill Dixon-Dodds (BD)
John Berry (JB)

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

The Chair (PP) welcomed all present and asked the committee to note that he had received apologies from John Berry (JB) and Bill Dixon-Dodds (BDD).

ITEM 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None declared.

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13TH JUNE 2011.

These were read and agreed.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING.

LH said that he had prepared a list of personal details but was waiting for details from BDD. However if not received he will send these out in any case in the near future.

LH was complimented by TB as to the accuracy of the minutes.

PP said he had secured the services of Adrian Peters to address the Committee later in the meeting.

PP said he was attending the Chairs Conference during mid September and if any member had anything of substance to raise, then please forward to him for inclusion. PP referred

to comments concerning the Veterans Welfare Service which had been raised at previous meetings and asked if there had been any movement in this area.

PP mentioned that he had been invited, via LH, to address Northamptonshire County Council prior to the full Council meeting on Thursday 8th December 2011. PP said he would prepare a speech and make this available should others wish to use for other talks/presentations.

Action: PP to provide presentation to Members

There was considerable discussion on the difference between Medical and Administrative Discharge and KM highlighted the need to pursue this and the issue of P7. PP said he would raise this at the Chairs meeting and agreement was reached 'administrative' should be removed from 'administrative discharge'. KM highlighted a case where a person with severe injuries wanted to remain in service. DD mentioned pamphlets on this subject were now available.

KM suggested inviting the Welfare Section to a meeting to explain why cases were not forwarded to committee.

Action: PP to invite Ms Price to the next meeting.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMANS REPORT.

AFN/NHS Forums. PP gave the Committee an overview of PCT and SHA clusters and the reorganisation of the NHS. In the East Midlands Alison Treadgold from the NHS in Nottingham has been tasked with the leadership of the Network. At this point in time the East Midlands is a little behind other areas in putting the Murrison initiatives into practice but there are signs that a plan is coming together. For the mental health sub group a Paul Cruickshank has been appointed as the lead and will write seeking views on the need and how the money, £150k can be put to best use..

Christmas Lunch

The meeting was informed the lunch had been fixed in Leicester and the money obtained.

Future Meetings

PP asked LH to fix future meeting facilities at Grantham and to confirm in writing.

PP mentioned the 'Inside Right' project funded by the Football Foundation and the RBL. Its aim was to provide help to veterans with mental health problem through the medium of football. To date the initiative has not been well supported perhaps due to a lack of understanding of the issues faced by veterans. The clubs involved are Colchester, Portsmouth, Chelsea, Everton and Lincoln and the link and leader of this project is Lucy Mann. Her email is .

Action: PP to invite Lucy MANN to meet the Committee.

PP mentioned the end of term report and that a full report would come out at the end of the year. He noted that a letter extending the life of the Committee has been sent to all. In the event of the Committees being confirmed for the future he asked all members to think

of people who might be persuaded to join the Committee. Several names were mentioned should there be a further recruiting process.

Personal Health Budgets.

TB declared an interest as a Commissioner.

Action: PP to provide details of a presentation made to him.

After note: PP was requested to leave this until the plans are more mature.

ITEM 6 SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS.

PP asked that sub-committee reports be presented in writing as this would ease minute taking and ensure that the important work of these committees was captured accurately in the future.

ITEM 7. ARMY RECOVERY CAPABILITY.

This item was postponed to allow for item 8.

ITEM 8 RFEA –PRESENTATION BY MR ADRIAN PETERS.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adrian PETERS, RFEA Business Development Director who provided the Committee with a presentation of the work of the RFEA and an update of the organisations most recent initiatives in the field of getting ex servicemen into work.

PP formally thanked Adrian Peters for his interesting talk and wished his organisation well.

ITEM 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Christmas Lunch.

The Committee then heard from RB and DD on arrangements for the Christmas Lunch which was to be held at Devonshire Court at 12noon on Thursday 8th December 2011. It was agreed therefor, that the Committee members would attend one hour before.

An agreement was reached, to target 60 deserving veterans, and hoped that 30 would attend. A nominal £5 would be charged and Committee Members and Wives would be invited. It was expected the Committee would also contribute and provide raffle prizes. TB made his apologies at this stage as he will be away. PP thanked RB for his work in connection with the Christmas Lunch

Other Matters

- Concern was expressed by some members that the SVPA at Kidderminster had never heard of us.
- DD explained the need to work with hospitals.
- LH to provide member contact details.

- TB mentioned local authority mortgages and would provide details to all present.
- PP said the Chair of Chairs would compile a complete list of contacts to all branches.

ITEM 10. DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

The dates of future meetings are

Monday 16th January 2012

Monday 5th March 2012

Monday 18th June 2012

Monday 24th September 2012

All at Grantham.

The meeting closed at 1pm after PP thanked all for their attendance.