



SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 1989

SOUTH EAST VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT COBSEO, MOUNTBARROW HOUSE, LONDON

PRESENT:

Canon P Bruinvels – Acting Chairman
Mrs L Gannon – Secretary
Mrs S Smith
Mr M Robjohn
Mr K Newton
Mr R Draper
Mr P Bateman
Mrs H Brown
Mr T Roper

APOLOGIES:

Mrs R Campbell, Mr I Parker, Mr W Gillett and Mr E Sturley.

1. Apologies and Introduction by Acting Chairman

Apologies as listed.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Acting Chairman reiterated that if any matter under consideration encroached on a member personally, financially or politically, it must be declared.

3. Appointment of Chairman/New Members

New letters of appointments were handed out to members – Mrs Gannon retained those for absent members for handing out at next meeting, along with ID cards.

Interviews had been conducted for the Chairman's position – a decision is still awaited. A discussion took place on maximum committee numbers and county representation. Mr Draper said that Jon Parkin had said that he would personally write to Lord Lieutenants to try to get committee members in certain locations – this would need chasing. Some committee members said that training courses had yet to be attended and asked for future dates.

ACTION Mr Bruinvels to write to Jon Parkin re these 2 matters.

4. Armed Forces and Community Covenants

Mr Bruinvels reiterated that all members should be contacting local authorities to ensure that they are aware of VA&PC's, but acknowledged that most of our region has already signed the covenants. He updated members attending on his notes re covenants, and asked that all members make appointments with LA's to ensure the SE VA&PC is known about.

5. Civilian-Military Partnership Boards

Mr Bruinvels asked members to discuss this item at the same time as covenants (see above).

6. SE Veterans Map by County

Mr Bruinvels said that he had a map and would ensure that all members received a copy. It was also agreed to get DASA statistics updated.

ACTION Mrs Gannon to ask DASA for stats

7. SE Military Bases Map

A defence magazine had published a map of military bases which would be useful to the committee. It was agreed to hold the next meeting close to 145 Bde, to get a briefing.

8. Heroes Welcome – Discount Scheme

This is open to serving and veterans personnel, with no fee, and is a discount scheme.

9. Housing (Mr Roper)

Mr Roper said that not all LA's were cooperating with the covenant over housing, and he felt that this fact should be fed into the Minister.

ACTION Mr Bruinvels to write to Eric Pickles

10. Members Updates

Mr Draper said that the forum held in Oxford in July had been busy. Demobilisation had been very busy, with about 9000 serving in the county.

Mr Newton said that he had been in regular contact with VWS at Centurion Building over a case he is involved with.

Mrs Smith said she had nothing further to report.

Mr Robjohn said that we should utilise Ian Parker more, as he is employed by Hampshire County Council; it was agreed that Mr Parker has done a lot of work for the SE VA&PC.

Mr Bateman said that he had been signposting as normal, and was still experiencing difficulty in getting support from the Isle of Wight. He said he would pass the details of one person to Mr Bruinvels to write to.

ACTION Mr Bateman to pass Mr Maidment's details to Mr Bruinvels.

Mr Roper said that he was still banging the drum over reservists, and had been to Combat Stress.

Mrs Brown said that she had been to the quarterly meeting at Tedworth House. She said that she was seeing a lot of alcohol problems in her professional capacity, and felt that this was becoming as big a problem as mental health issues.

Mrs Gannon said that she continued to raise the VAPC profile at every event/meeting she attended.

Mr Bruinvels said that his work role had changed and he was keeping the VAPC profile high.

11. Any Other Business

Mr Bruinvels asked for bullet point style comments from committee members so that he could write an annual report to Norcross.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th December at SERFCA, Aldershot.

POST MEETING NOTE – Meeting will now take place on Thursday 12th December at Castaway House, Portsmouth, commencing at 1100, with the new Chairman in attendance.