

MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE EAST
MIDLANDS VETERANS ADVISORY AND
PENSIONS COMMITTEE HELD AT PRINCE
WILLIAM OF GLOUCESTER BARRACKS,
OFFICERS MESS, ON MONDAY 16th JANUARY,
2012 at 10.30 AM.

Present:

Lt Col Peter Poole (PP)	Chair
Bill Dixon-Dodds (BDD)	
Terl Bryant (TB)	
David Harding (DH)	
David Donovan (DD)	Vice Chair
Larry Henson (LH)	Secretary
Ray Boyfield (RB)	
Charlie Streater (CS)	
John Berry (JB)	

Apologies
Keith Meakin (KM).

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES.

The Chair (PP) welcomed all present and asked the committee to note that he had received apologies from Keith Meakin who was on stand in duty.
PP mentioned the changes to committees and said that the Chair of Chairs Ray Holland had totally resigned.

Paul Kingham the NEVAPC was the new Chair of Chairs and had a background of work in the MOD and was a Staff Officer in Edinburgh.

Tony Phillips of NEVAPC would be the new Vice Chair. PP had sent a letter of congratulations, which had received a reply.

The focal point has now gone and Sandra Price, who was John Parkins assistant, has moved to a more important job and Chrissy Lancaster was leaving and Charlotte Helmsby was replacing Chrissy.

PP thanked DD and RB for organising the lunch and that there was a need to continue this practice and to involve Paul Cummings.

PP mentioned that KMs apologies were because he was standing in for Andy Stables.

PP discussed speedier minutes and it was felt that there was a need to receive these sooner.

ITEM 2.

Nil items for discussion.

ITEM 3/4.

PP referred to page 4 and there then followed considerable discussion on “Administrative Discharge”. PP said there was confusion over “Medically” and “Administratively”.

There was no longer “Dishonourable Discharge” only “Administrative Discharge”. PP mentioned Amputees on P7 and said there had been muddying of the waters.

DD mentioned the SVPA and said it had been mentioned, “They had never heard of us”. It was mentioned by DD that PP had intended to invite Sandra Price but was not available but this was mentioned to John Parkin. PP will follow this up.

There was the need for a member of EMVAPC to assist in a visit to a veteran living on a barge in Northampton and apparently Coopted members could not assist as uninsured. DH will follow this up and offer his services.

CS said he had visited Kidderminster and seen Sandra Price and they were well aware of us.

TB mentioned three names that he had referred and they were seen, and received assistance, but he had received no feedback.

PP stressed the need for Sandra Price or her replacement to attend our next meeting in March 2012.

ITEM 5. (Review of Strategic Plan).

JB said having read it he was relaxed with its contents.

LH mentioned it should be a priority to be involved in independent reviews.

TB asked PP to request under the freedom of information what reviews had taken place. After discussion, this was agreed to be pursued in a roundabout way.

RB said this should be available and we should ask first.

PP outlined our terms of reference. The general feeling of those present was for greater committee involvement. It was felt there was a need for us to be part of a procedure and there was absolutely nothing on this subject on the SVPA website.

PP mentioned ICPs and being on a review committee and that non-availability let down others. People need referral to us for assistance.

PP went over the strategic plan and these were read out and agreed.

Under strategic aim 1, we were doing a lot but we could be doing more. We need a little more effort to be in touch with people. CS mentioned access to leaflets and PP mentioned John Parkin and money.

PP queried whether we could seek sponsorship.

BDD said the trouble was we do not spring to mind and JB said there were too many organisations.

RB mentioned out capacity and direction.

LH mentioned the need for a specific EMVAPC leaflet for us in particular and when achieved to seek the funding for these to spread our aims and message. TB agreed but added SVPA should design it in the first instance.

PP said the need to in people's web sites.

DD mentioned the possibility of involving COBSEO in this.

Action.

PP to contact Mike Brays replacement to put on their web page and PP to speak at their AGM.

PP said there was a need to get a serving person on the Committee and various persons were mentioned and also someone from the reserve forces association and Chetwing in particular.

Sub committee reports.

DD said 111 invites went out from Combat Stress and 26 attended. This cost £577.40 and all who attended agreed it was excellent.

PP said we should not just think of CHRISTMAS but consider more lunches and other events and to let him have ideas. TB mentioned a trip to the Aboratum. PP said to keep in touch with this and keep the ideas alive. PP agreed Leicester again for the XMAS lunch and DD will provide the date at the next meeting.

It was agreed with thanks that DD would run the next event.

JB mentioned in reach and recruiting ex veterans and mentioned the mental health side. JB will forward to LH for all members.

LH mentioned he has collated a list of all members which he has circulated to each other but not the SVPA as he was only Ad Hoc. He reiterated that Chris Harrison was no longer a member.

PP rounded up by saying this regions NHS network had a moderate attendance. It appeared there was no local involvement. DD said his company may soon have and will enquire. PP said he would take the issue up with Peter Homer and JB added he sat on the Leicester one. CS asked for details, as he is chair of a wheelchair users committee.

PP mentioned the talk he gave at the NCC, which LH said was well received, and there was now a need to talk to other Councils.

PP mentioned the “Forces in Mind Trust” which received £35M over 20 years and is now handing out money. It is run out of COBSEO. PP will get their terms of reference for making claims.

LH to remind two weeks before the meetings that reports etc for inclusion in the next agenda should be forwarded to PP.

PP said we need to recruit younger members with a range of skills and mentioned the new interview meeting, and who will be in the process. DD asked when the advert will appear and PP said there would be an E mail to all organisations and then it would appear in newspapers.

CS re-iterated the need for EMVAPC literature as said by LH and that it was essential for our committee.

PP said he thought business cards were essential and CS added that our own literature was essential for waiting

rooms and similar. PP said this was difficult unless you can get individual permission from each establishment.

PP said all literature needed to be fit for purpose.

TB asked whether we could put out charity bags.

ITEM 9 Any other business.

Dd asked if there were other ways of getting referrals. PP said this would be an agenda item for the next meeting. He said to go ahead and set up a Hotmail account.

DD and JB to liaise re ex offenders and the probation service.

DD mentionerd the need to liaise with PRUs.

DD and PP agreed to a short meeting prior to the next meeting.

DD asked if a Treasurer was needed, but PP said one was not needed at this stage.

DD asked about The Covenant with Councils and TB has the details. LH said this was mentioned at NCC with the Chief Executive and Council Leader prior to PPs talk to the Council.

DD mentioned the work in Mansfield and Nottingham which was excellent and DH to provide details at the next meeting. PP said we need to be close to all things but we

must not be left holding the can. We have to make sure things are sustainable.

PP said we must ensure that assistance is provided to those who deserve assistance.

DD mentioned The Employment Engagement Advice Officer of the Nottingham Probation Service and suggested a meeting. She works with companies nationally.

Dates of next meetings.

Monday 5th March 2012

Monday 18th June 2012

Monday 24th September 2012

December 2012 Awaits (before luncheon at Leicester Masonic Centre).

Rest at Grantham.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm after PP thanked all for their attendance.