

**MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING
EAST MIDLANDS VETERANS AND PENSIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Date: 21st September 2015
Location: Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham

Present: Peter Poole Chairman
Patrick Rendall Deputy Chairman
Larry Henson Meetings Secretary
David Wilson General Secretary
Barry Smith
Michael Whitehead
Debbie Bowles
John Berry
Ray Boyfield
Paul Davies

Apologies: Sukbir Bindra
Bill Dixon-Dodds
Terl Bryant
Charlie Streater
David Lomas

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Opening Remarks	
1.1	The Chairman welcomed everyone present and in particular Barry Smith.	Note
1.2	He said that David Donovan had recently died. He had been a respected member of the committee until his death and had been a former vice chairman. He bore his illness with courage and dignity. The meeting stood for a period of silence as a mark of respect. The Chairman added that a donation would be made to a chosen organisation to which all could contribute if they wished.	Note
2.	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	There were no declarations of interest	Note
3.	Welcome to New Members	

3.1 The Chairman welcomed Barry Smith as a new Committee Member. Barry gave a short resume of his career in the RAF, where he retired as a Group Captain and also his reasons for applying for membership of EMVAPC. The Chairman thanked him and asked him to lead a sub committee on 'Strategic Direction' based upon his background experience. The invitation was accepted.

3.2 The Chairman gave details of future training in Gloucester

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Note

All

4.	Minutes of the Meeting	
4.1	Patrick Rendall again mentioned Launde Abbey in Leicestershire, which is run by the CofE and was a suitable place for welfare symposiums and conferences. Members of the committee who were aware of the venue endorsed this recommendation.	Note
4.2	There was a need for more meeting dates, which have now been distributed. Larry Henson said he was in future going to deal with Elixir Catering for bookings.	Note
4.3	In discussion about the Strategic Plan, Barry Smith agreed to head the Governance and Policy subgroup instead of Debbie Bowles.	Note
4.4	Debbie Bowles again mentioned that 'non freezing injuries' were not recognised by the Service Authorities for pensionable purposes. The Chairman agreed to refer this to the Medical Advisory Committee.	Chairman
4.5	The Chairman agreed to arrange for members to have a copy of the draft covenant report and said it was disappointing that it did not pick up on some comments especially on lack of a further time scale.	Chairman
4.6	Paul Davies said that Forces Champions in prisons had been replaced by prisoners carrying out this role, but without resources.	Note
4.7	It was decided there was a need for the Committee to engage with Council Forces Champions and the Chairman suggested that a meeting should be set up at County Council level. David Wilson agreed to compile a list of Forces Champions in all councils in the EMVAPC region.	David Wilson
4.8	A number of issues of detail concerning the Covenant were discussed and it was agreed to feed all the information to David Wilson who would coordinate it.	All
4.9	Debbie Bowles highlighted a number of discrepancies in claims depending on very minor matters and would compile a list.	Note
4.10	The Chairman mentioned that the Covenant did not relate to Northern Ireland and that there were also issues whether the Merchant Navy should be included. He would send a report regarding the review and members were to keep up to date by e-mail.	Note
4.11	The Chairman said Hedley Court had been sold and would move to the new Rehabilitation Centre, Stanford Hall in Leicestershire. Help for Heroes and SAFFA had	Note

	spent a large amount of money on Hedley Court. Apparently 240 bed spaces had been created and it was not known what would happen to Headley Court site, when the facility was relocated.	
4.12	The minutes were then agreed as a true record.	Note
5.	Christmas Function Arrangements	
5.1	Patrick Rendall gave a short briefing on the Christmas Lunch arrangements. Some consideration was given to future Christmas functions, which would be discussed at 2016 meetings.	All
6.	Corporate Sponsorship for the Christmas Lunch	
6.1	Michael Whitehead spoke about corporate support for the Christmas lunches. He was hopeful of obtaining £400 each from BT Open Reach, British Gas and Network Rail. There was a discussion about table sponsorship and also how to enable the companies to have a platform to promote their engagement with veterans. Michael was thanked for his contribution to obtaining corporate funding.	Note
6.2	The Committee was most grateful for funds provided by the RAF Benevolent Fund, John Berry's company. The RAF Association and the Chairman hoped to obtain £150. The Treasurer confirmed there was enough money to go ahead with the lunch.	All
6.3	Larry Henson mentioned the Committee had agreed to look at organising other veterans' events instead of the Christmas lunch. The Chairman agreed and suggested the Arboretum and the Battle of Britain Museum. This could be discussed at the next meeting.	Chairman Larry Henson
6.4	There was a discussion about inviting Council leaders, but it was a little late to get entries in diaries.	Note
6.5	Debbie Bowles volunteered to organise a table prize with one star prize and each guest to win a prize.	Debbie Bowles
6.6	Future events should be put on the January agenda.	Larry Henson
7	Strategic Thinking	
7.1	This was to be an agenda item at the next meeting.	Larry Henson
8.	Any Other Business	
8.1	In response to a question from Barry Smith The Chairman said there had been no feedback from the Chair of Chairs' meeting. This was expected shortly.	Note
9.	Date of the Next Meeting	

9.1	10.30am for 11.00am on Monday 18 th January 2016 in the Officers Mess, Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.	All
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12th January 2016

Distribution - Those listed above