

**MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EAST MIDLANDS VETERANS AND PENSIONS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD AT THE OFFICERS MESS, PRINCE WILLIAM OF  
GLOUCESTER BARRACKS, GRANTHAM ON MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2015 AT 11.00am**

Present.

Lt. Col. Peter POOLE (PP) Chair  
Bill DIXON-DODDS (BDD) Acting Vice Chair  
Larry HENSON (LH) Meetings Secretary  
Charlie STREATHER (CS)  
David WILSON (DW) General Secretary  
Patrick RENDALL (PR)  
Michael WHITEHEAD (MW)  
David LOMAS (DL)  
Paul DAVIES (PD)  
Ray BOYFIELD (RB)

Apologies:

David DONOVAN (DD)  
John BERRY (JB)  
Debbie BOWLES (DB)  
Terl BRYANT (TB)

**ITEM 1. Opening Remarks.**

The Chair welcomed all present, hoped that they had enjoyed Christmas and that it was no too late to wish them a Happy New Year. He apologised for not attending either of the veterans Christmas Lunches but that continuing to act as Chief Executive of Combat Stress and spending one day that week interviewing four candidates for our committee had imposed time constraints.

**ITEM 2. Declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest that would affect the work of the Committee.

**ITEM 3. Minutes of the last meeting/matters arising.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2015 were checked for both accuracy and content and then agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

The only matter arising was information that the lead on the VAPC IT project - Mike France - had unexpectedly resigned as Chairman of the North West VAPC.

**ITEM 4 Selection of Deputy Chairman.**

Before moving to the election for the role of Deputy Chairman, PP thanked both DD for his work whilst in this role and BDD for stepping in when DD had been taken ill.

Three candidates had asked to be considered - BDD, PR and DW. Each candidate provided a short presentation on what they would bring to the role and there was an opportunity for them to answer questions from the Committee. The secretary asked the Committee to note each candidates' tenure on the committee and CS asked about available time to devote to the role.

Ballot papers were completed including three proxy votes in writing from absent members held by the Secretary. Following the count Patrick Rendall was declared the successful candidate. He thanked everybody and said unfortunately he would be absent from the next meeting as he had a long arranged trip abroad.

#### **ITEM 6. Feedback from the Christmas Lunches – Feedback.**

The following points were made:

- RB - Our account shows a healthy balance and all bills have been paid.
- LH – Noted that Committee attendance had been poor. (Maximum of six.)
- LH - Non-attendance; some money had been disbursed as the venue would not reduce bill where people had not attended.
- CS - Need to map veterans locations.

There followed further discussion regarding numbers, parking, cost etc with various suggestions as to future events. Ideas included outings incorporating a small lunch at the Arboretum, Duxford or somewhere similar. PP invited members to bring forward ideas at the next meeting.

The Chairman asked PR to write letters to all external organisations involved in the lunches.

Afternote 1: This has been done.

Afternote 2: PR provided out of committee details of a lunch that could be held at the Cricket Club – but due to time constraints an early decision had to be made. This did cut across the agreement that the Committee would consider events at the next meeting but in general most have comments have been favourable.

#### **ITEM 7 Fundraising for 2015 Events.**

PP said it was quite apparent that money was now becoming scarcer and donors were not as generous as before. He thanked those for raising last years' funding and said we needed to put on our thinking caps for the next event. PP said it was important to identify sources and MW said he would provide details of benefactors at Lincoln.

#### **ITEM 8. The Chavasse Report**

PP said due to time constraints this item would be passed over, most had seen the report, it had been previously discussed and there was little to add. Should there be a need Committee members could ask for reinstatement at a later date.

### **ITEM 9. The Covenant Report.**

PP advised the Committee that the draft Covenant Report for the year 2014 is now available, once again he felt that the report needed to be more detailed. A response is currently being formulated and would be provided for members. The Committee will discuss further at subsequent meetings.

What is clear is that organisations are quick to sign up to the Covenant but once signed there remains an obligation to live up to expectations.

It had been queried if the Merchant Navy was part of this and the answer was “only if part of operations”.

### **ITEM 10. Reservists**

PP said there was nothing to add at this time on this item.

### **ITEM 11 and 12 The way forward and subcommittee reports.**

These would be held over to March – apologies already given by PR who was leading this.

PP said that at the next meeting he felt we should have a reduced agenda to include XMAS arrangements, future operations, The directory for social change, new members.

### **ITEM 13. Update on Recruitment.**

Together with Group Captain Ian Hindle – the appropriate independent - he had interviewed four potential candidates for the committee. They were all found acceptable, one was on the board of SAFFA, a lady from the Royal British Legion and two were ex RAF. However one had also applied to be chair of another region and one had also applied to join Humberside. The selection now rests with Veterans UK and the applicants concerned and no doubt more information would be available in March.

### **ITEM 14. In Reach**

BDD mentioned the Veterans Offenders Working Group which he attends is meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, he will update at the next meeting.

### **ITEM 15. RBL Household Survey.**

PP ran over the RBL Leaflet with statistics and promised to send out the major document to each member.

### **ITEM 16. Date of next meeting and venue**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 10.30am for 11am Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham.

The meeting ended at 13.25 hrs