



Minutes: London Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee Meeting

Venue: - Naval Club 38 Hill Street, Mayfair, LONDON W1J 5NS

Wednesday 13th December 2017

Time: 10.30 – 13.00

Present	Apologies	Observers / Guests
Lynn Verity (LV) Chairman	Alex Jablonowski (AJ)	
Jim Blake (JB) – Deputy Chairman	Roger Hood (RH)	
Gill Grigg (GG)	Heather Nicholson (HN)	
Jules Eaton (JE)	Jim Evans (JME)	
Penny Long (PL)		
Julie Thain Smith (JTS)		
Paul Clabburn (PC)		
Ken Courtenay (KC)		
Bob Money (BM)		
Andrew Ross (AR)		
Marion Knight (secretary MK)		

ITEM 1: Introductions	ACTION
<p>1. The Chairman welcomed the committee members. The Chairman respectfully requested 100% attendance where possible from all Committee members. She reminded all members that meeting dates are published a year in advance and as</p>	

there are only four it should be possible to programme them into everyone's diary	
ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 1. Apologies for absence were accepted from committee members AJ, HN, JME and RH	
ITEM 3: DECLARATION OF INTEREST 2. The Chairman reminded Committee members that they must declare any interest arising out of their personal/business life which could conflict with VAPC business.	
ITEM 4: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 1. Item 8 – The Chairman requested a sub point 8 was added to confirm that JB will continue to act in a supervisory role to all subgroups 2. The next Chairman's Conference in March 2018 will be held in London and hopefully Jane Taylor the coordinator for Veterans Health at the King Edward V11 Hospital will be able to attend. The Chairman agreed to follow this up 3. Item 4 – GG provided detailed information up with regards to the Statutory Instrument and this would be covered in GG's report 4. Item 5 - The Chairman had written to the Mayor and had received a response which had been passed to PC 5. Item 5 - GG & PC had written the piece for the website 6. Item 7 – At the Chairman's conference in October 2017, the Chairman had shared the ideas London VA&PC had with regards to commemorating the centenary of the War Pensions Committees. These ideas were well received and the other chairman asked the London Committee to be the lead with regards the celebrations. The Chairman asked for an update from the Centenary sub group for the March meeting. Following a brief discussion, the Chairman agreed she would send a letter out to all Chairs of the VA&PC committees and Jon Parkin confirming the idea of marking the centenary and informing them that she would be writing to the Secretary of State to keep him abreast of their plans 7. PC confirmed the London VA&PC minutes for June 2017 have been published on the VA&PC website and that MK will continue to publish minutes in this way 8. The Committee agreed, that subject to the one amendment, the minutes of the September meeting were ratified and could be sent to Norcross	MK LV LV MK
ITEM 5: – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE SUB-GROUPS POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS – GILL GRIGGS - refer to the sub groups report to the Committee circulated before the meeting) 1. GG drew attention to the Statutory Instrument (SI) and explained that the SI is part of the Social Security legislation, dating back to the days before the administration of the War Pensions Scheme became the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence 2. The Committee believe it is imperative that VA&PC's are supported by the SI otherwise the Committees have no legal backing 3. The Committee agreed there should be a Terms of Reference, KC and GG to draft. GG and KC will review the terms of reference document which was drafted some time ago and they will ask for feedback from the London Committee before communicating to other chairs for the Chairman's conference in March 2018 4. GG will request RH to reference in the London Committee's Business plan, the War Pensions Scheme, the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the Veteran's Welfare Service in the plan	KC & GG GG

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. GG referenced the Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Board and the importance of having a VA&PC member on that board 6. The Committee again discussed about the Armed Forces Champion for London and the response received from the Mayor of London. The Mayor has asked the Committee to liaise directly with the Senior Policy Officer for the London Assembly. PC & JB are going to arrange a meeting 7. JE raised concerns with regards to the lack of progress in addressing the AFCS Quinquennial Review, published in February 2017. GG & JE to draft a letter which will be sent to variety of Parliamentary All-Party Groups 8. The Chairman mentioned that an All Party Parliamentary Veterans Committee had been formed. PC to write to this group by way of an introduction about the work of the London VA&PC and requesting a meeting 	<p>PC & JB</p> <p>GG & JE</p> <p>PC</p>
<p>HEALTH AND WELFARE –PENNY LONG - (refer to the sub groups report to the Committee circulated before the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PL stated the recent London VA&PC Business Plan had no mention of the word welfare. GG to follow this up 2. JTS outlined the sub groups proposal for their project focusing on a GP’s recognition scheme. The project will span 2 years because of its extensive scope. JTS circulated an initial report to the Committee at the meeting 3. JE explained that the work with regards to access to hospices for Veterans had not progressed further and he been sent the terms of reference for the DPSI and he was going to arrange to meet with their representative next year 	<p>GG</p> <p>JE</p>
<p>HOUSING – PAUL CLABBURN – (refer to the sub groups report to the Committee circulated before the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PC highlighted the work on Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities and the review the sub group had been asked to do. PC congratulated and thanked AR & BM who had helped extensively with this review 2. The Committee agreed to discuss the approach for next steps with regards the Kent University study at the next committee meeting in March 2018 	
<p>EMPLOYMENT – ALEX JABLONOWSKI – (refer to the sub groups report to the Committee circulated before the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee noted the reference to the Mentoring Group and PC suggested that if Barclays could work with their own communication team, the Committee might then be in a better place to promote the mentoring scheme 2. The Chairman mentioned that the Chairman’s conference in March 2018 would be held in London and that the last time this occurred Barclays had hosted the event. The Chairman has been approached by Kerry Wright asking for some assistance in securing a meeting venue for the Chairman’s Conference. The Committee agreed they would ask AJ to make some informal approach with other employers to see whether he could secure a venue for the conference. If this informal approach was unsuccessful the task will be handed back to Norcross 	<p>AJ</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>CENTENARY – ROGER HOOD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This sub group has nothing to report at this meeting 	
<p>AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATIONS – PAUL CLABBURN - (refer to the sub groups report to the Committee circulated before the meeting)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PC thanked GG & PL for their article for the VA&PC website 2. PC agreed to publish a piece with regards housing on the VA&PC website 3. JB suggested a question is posed on the website with regards as to how Brexit might impact on British Veterans living within the European Community 	<p>PC</p>

ITEM 6: TREASURERS REPORT 1. £10 remains in the bank account	
ITEM 7: CONFIRMATION OF MEETING DATES 2018 1. Monday 12 th March – 11.00 -14.00, Wednesday 13 th June 11.00-14.00 and Wednesday 5 th September 11.00-14.00. These 3 meetings will be held at the RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1B 1AR 2. The December date and venue to be confirmed. GG will make some enquiries with regards to this meeting and the lunch venue	GG
ITEM 8: – AOB 1. Expenses – the Chairman asked for all expenses to be sent to MK at her home address who will arrange for approval and subsequent sending to Norcross 2. JB – asked the committee members to give some thought to presenters for the 2018 meetings 3. LV asked GG to send copy of meeting dates to Welfare Manager covering London	ALL GG