



SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 1989

SOUTH EAST VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2016 AT CENTURION BUILDING, GOSPORT

PRESENT:

Mr M Mates - Chairman
Canon P Bruinvels – Deputy Chairman
Mrs L Gannon – Secretary
Mr I Parker
Mr P Bateman
Mr R Draper
Mr T Roper
Mr K Newton
Mr A Hiscutt – Regional Welfare Manager

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Gillett, Mr Robjohn, Mr Olson and Mrs Smith

2. Declaration of Interest

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

He also said that he had been at a Chairs meeting in York, where dissatisfaction appeared to be mounting by all committees, over problems at Norcross. The Chairs had insisted on seeing the SI before it was accepted and would be dealt with at the next Chairs meeting.

Rob Rowntree was currently Head of veterans but Jon Parkin would be returning to the post in the New Year.

3. Presentation by Mr Andrew Hiscutt, Regional Welfare Manager

Mr Hiscutt handed out his presentation and ran through it, explaining the salient points. Questions were asked about appeals, but Mr Hiscutt stated that it was not his departments business therefore was unable to comment.

He stated that the biggest problem was connectivity with DWP as their IT was not compatible with DBS's. Mr Mates said that he would report the problem with statistics to Mr Rowntree.

Mr Hiscutt said that the TRBL were hosting a Veterans Gateway on their website – a type of 1 stop portal for veterans by phone.

4. Recruitment

Mr Mates said that the committee was below our minimum requirement, due to 2 resignations. It was hoped to co-opt 2 new members in the Kent area.

5. Chairmen's Conference

Mr Mates said that he had covered this item at the start of the meeting. Mr Draper said that information was still not being received from Norcross.

6. Members Updates

Mr Draper said that he had been to a Combat Stress outreach with Anna de Rocha – Combat Stress had withdrawn all the Welfare Officers and said that the Minister should be informed that they were failing to support veterans.

Canon Bruinvels reported that Surry/Hants County Councils had received Gold awards for recognising the employability of service personnel.

He also said that he was now the Armed Forces Champion for 11 Bde for the SE area.

Mr Draper said that he felt there had been no advance in the business strategy for this committee.

7. Any Other Business

No items were forthcoming.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Weds 22 March, venue tbc

POST MEETING NOTE - The meeting will now take place on Monday 20th March at Castaway House – West Wing Conference Room @ 1100.