



SOCIAL SECURITY ACT 1989

SOUTH EAST VETERANS ADVISORY AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017 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
Clare Newman – Regional Welfare Manager
Karen Sowton – Welfare Dept

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Gillett, Mr Roper, 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 stated that he had been to cases with Karen Sleat in Leatherhead, and had found some very troubled people there. He has written to Rob Rowntree and may well take it to the Minister for Veterans, as people were waiting so long to have cases sorted and were not getting medicals in the same area.

3. Presentation by Mr Andrew Hiscutt, Regional Welfare Manager

Mr Hiscutt reported that this would be his last meeting and Clare Newman was the temporary RWM until his replacement was recruited. Clare ran through the report, highlighting salient points. Mr Draper asked if panels would be resurrected and Mr Mates agreed to take it to the Chairman's Conference.

4. Recruitment

There had been plenty of response to the London advert for new members, 2 of which came from Kent, so Mr Mates agreed to contact them directly.

Mr Draper said that this was not good enough as we had had vacancies for a long time and Jon Parkin and Rob Rowntree should come and say why.

5. Chairmen's Conference

Mr Mates said that there had been no minutes received from the last Conference, and would try to obtain the draft Agenda for the next meeting to get our points adding in.

6. Veterans Representative on Civ Mil partnership Boards

Mr Bruinvels felt that we should have a rep on these boards. The Covenants were due to be refreshed and he felt that we should push to get VAPC signatories. Mr Hiscock said that CMP's were not the right platform to deal with veterans, but the covenant was. He felt that Hampshire was the benchmark for others to aim for.

Mr Draper said that he had tried to get onto the Oxford CMP, but had been told it was not dealing with veterans, so the Oxford Veterans Forum would continue to push veterans' issues.

Mr Mates was agreed to write to the Armed Forces Champions in our region to ask them to join the VAPC.

7. Future of SEVAPC

Mr Draper thought the committee needed motivating to get more involved, as nothing was being done. He felt that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should write a strategy for the committee to work to.

Mr Hiscock said that committees were successful once they engaged with other organisations and with the VWS. Mrs Newman agreed to exchange details between her staff and VAPC members.

8. Statutory Instrument

Mr Bateman asked what was happening with the SI. Mr Mates said the final draft had been done but was for Chairman's eyes only. He said he would get the latest draft and would circulate it to committee members.

Mr Draper asked if the committee TORs were in the pipeline, but the SI needed completing first, as it is likely to impact on TORs.

9. Members Updates

Mrs Gannon said that she had been the voluntary Secretary for many years and felt that it was time for someone else to take over.

Mr Bruinvels said that there was a service at Guildford Cathedral on 18 June to celebrate the launch of the Armed Forces Week, WRNS100 and the 75th anniversary of the Sea cadets – all welcome.

Mr Parker said that his circumstances were changing and would be retiring at the end of April. He would ask his successor if she would like to take his place on the board and would get her to contact the Chairman.

Mr Draper said that he was working on a successor, but was finding it difficult when he is unable to explain what we actually do. He agreed to host the next meeting in Abingdon to have a couple of potential members there.

10. Any Other Business

No items were forthcoming.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3 July or Wednesday 5 July at Edward Brookes Barracks, Abingdon.