

Royal British Legion
Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.
6th February 2012.

Present: Neil Russell (Chairman)
Sarah Maskell-Bott (Vice-Chairman) (Welfare Committee)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Liam Shelbourne (Treasurer)

In attendance: John Maskell-Bott John Birmingham
Pam Lewis (Welfare Committee) Dave Lewis
Fred Simpson Rev. Richard Hines
Rev. Kathy Biles (Welfare Committee)
Pam Budd Tom Biggs

Apologies for Absence: Marvin Clark, John Clifford.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 5th December were confirmed as correct.
2. Matters arising:

Pam Lewis has agreed to sit on the Welfare Committee.

A revised Form MS1 is to be completed and submitted once the Committee structure is finalized.

Action: Secretary to arrange for the completion and resubmission of Form MS1 in due course.

The Treasurer confirmed that all funds arising from the Concert will be donated to the Poppy Appeal. Thus far, a total of £1,163.81 (net) has been raised from the Concert.

An e-mail had been received from HQ regarding the non-return of membership cards which had not been issued, and for which we shall be charged. It was noted that the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary need a closer co-ordination over Membership matters, and this subject should be raised at the next Committee meeting.

Action: Treasurer to contact Membership Secretary to clarify exact position re. membership cards, and bring topic to the next Committee Meeting.

The "Red Bus" had been used to transport a member to the meeting for the first time.

3. Chairman's Report:

Regretfully, the last Committee meeting (January branch meeting) was not quorate. Veterans from HMS SHEFFIELD and MV ATLANTIC CONVEYOR attended and were entertained. They expressed their thanks and pleasure at being invited to the meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The total Poppy Fund Appeal has raised £6,130.47 with still some funds to be collected from FIC West Store (Green-token distribution). The funds will be remitted to UK as soon as possible.

It was reported that the Branch maintain 2 fixed deposit accounts with Standard Chartered Bank, locally. As the current rates of interest are so low, it was suggested using the RBL Central Investment Account in UK as a good vehicle through which these funds may be invested.

Action: Treasurer to investigate the nature of the Central fund further.

5. Co-opted Committee Members.

Dave Lewis agreed to be co-opted as Poppy Fund Co-ordinator on the understanding that his role was limited to the distribution and collection of the Poppy Day poppies and collecting tins. (Proposed: Sarah Maskell-Bott. Seconded: Neil Russell. Passed: nem con).

John Maskell-Bott agreed to be co-opted as a Committee member. (Proposed: Neil Russell. Seconded: Keith Biles. Passed: nem con).

6. FIDF Status:

The Chairman confirmed that the status of members of the FIDF has now been definitively determined as "Not of beneficial status". A letter of appeal against this decision is to be submitted by the Chairman, and a sub-committee formed to produce a report justifying the appeal. John Maskell-Bott was elected the Chairman of the sub-committee. (Proposed: Dave Lewis. Seconded: Liam Shelbourne. Passed: nem con)

Action: Chairman to write to HQ. John Maskell-Bott to co-ordinate the production of a report justifying FIDF beneficiary status.

Post Meeting Note: The report from the sub-committee has been signed per procuracionem by the Treasurer and submitted to HQ

7. Remembrance Weekend 2012.

The chairman confirmed that a military band will be in the Islands for Liberation Day and Remembrance Sunday, but NOT for for Battle Day nor the Queen's Birthday parade.

The band has been provisionally booked for a Poppy Ball on the Saturday (or if possible, the Friday) of Remembrance weekend.

Post meeting Note: The band has been confirmed for Friday 09th November 2012.

It was noted that the Legion has not been invited to send a representative to the 30th Anniversary (of Liberation) Committee.

8. The Web-site.

Liam Shelbourne is now established as the “web-master” for the branch’s content on the main RBL web-site. Brief biographies for the Chairman and the President, as well as the Committee members were requested to be submitted to Liam, together with contact details.

Suitable content and, if available, photos are welcome and should be sent to Liam. He confirmed that date sensitive material is automatically updated within the “diary” section of the site.

Action: Biographical and contact details to be sent to Liam by Chairman, President and Committee members.

9. Invitation to Visit.

An invitation to visit has been received from the Chatteris, Cambs branch of the RBL. The invitation is to all local members of the RBL and Islanders who are likely to be in the area during November.

10. Wreaths.

All wreath orders may now be placed through the web-site. The Treasurer reported that all outstanding bills for wreaths have now been settled.

11. Any other business:

Rev Richard Hines will be taking copies of the 90th Anniversary Concert Programme to the Government Archive. Sarah Maskell-Bott will follow-up with Shirley Adams-Leach regarding the sale of programmes in the schools.

Action: Sarah Maskell-Bott to contact Shirley Adams-Leach.

It was noted that the Branch Standard and associated kit is now lodged in the Wreath Storage Room at Hillside. Access can be arranged through either the Chairman or the Treasurer.

The Treasurer suggested that when Branch meetings coincided with British Veterans visiting the islands that an invitation be extended to

them to attend, and that he would ensure that funds were made available for suitable refreshments.

12. Next Meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Branch will be on Monday, 5th March 2012. at 7.30 pm. The Committee should attempt to attend at 7 pm for a brief meeting.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.