Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

4th February 2022

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Keith Biles, Mark Brook, Richard Hyslop, Bob French, John & Sarah Maskell Bott, Jenny Reece, Tamsin Harris, Tim Mean.	Actions.
Apologies: Becky Rees.	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
Matters Arising: Chris Locke has spoken to the Deputy Governor and confirmed Government House will be able to host a reception to mark Armed Forces Day.	
Chris spoke to Dan Barton and confirmed he had sent a resume to the Committee of what was discussed.	
Jenny Reece is going to pass Lara's email address to Sarah Maskell-Bott to see if things can be sorted re: the chair.	Jenny Reese
Chris Locke said he hadn't written the letter of thanks to John Whitby yet, but would be doing so.	Chris Locke
Chris confirmed all the financial papers have been sent off to the RBL in the UK. The Branch has remitted just over £8,000 to the Poppy Appeal.	
Mark Brook confirmed he has put a request in for an RBL lapel pin featuring the 40 th Anniversary Logo, but said they have already got a pin featuring the Paras in the online Poppy Shop.	Mark Brook

Chris Locke confirmed that BFSAI will be allocated 30 tickets for this year's Poppy Ball.

Chairman's report

Chris Locke reported he had been to the Chamber of Commerce to listen to discussions about proposals for the future use of Hillside Camp by Chamber Members. As things stand proposals don't involve the main building. One member suggested that it was hoped the port-a-cabins could be used for pop-up businesses. In the immediate future they could be used as isolation units for people coming into the Islands. All proposals will be presented to FIG by the Chamber. Chris said he felt the Poppy Inn was unlikely to be redeveloped in the immediate future although it depended very much on FIG's requirements for the site.

John and Sarah Maskell-Bott confirmed Phil Middleton is happy that we have his cheque and if possible, use the money locally. He doesn't want to know how or where it's used and it was agreed it could go in the Welfare Fund to help pay for the chair. They said he also expressed concern for some locals who were here in 1982 who may now be experiencing the effects of PTSD.

The Branch has been nominated for a Poppy Appeal Trophy for the amount of money raised per capita. It's £2.57 per person.

Quiz night was due for tonight, but Chris Locke ran out of time to organise and Nancy Locke said she was unable to make the pasties as there was no swede available! It was reported Malcolm Hamilton has offered to be a Quiz Master so the plan is to ask him to be our quizmaster for March's Social.

Chris has had a second call with Dan Barton and says he's quite down as he's not being greatly supported by the Armed Forces. His aim is to make the Silhouettes we need and we'll send them back after the 40th events are over. He does want them to all be in one display. However he will allow us to retain 20. Chris said he's considering Victory Green for the Installation and confirmed he will

investigate whether they can be returned via the MoD FIRS.	
Former Chairman Neil 'Russ' Russell passed away very suddenly. Chris has been approached by Steve Dent informally asking if we are doing anything. Chris said he replied by saying yes if relatives and friends felt they would like something. The Poppy Inn could be used as a venue. Keith Biles said there were no funeral plans mentioned as yet. There may be a memorial service, but that wouldn't be immediately.	
Chris said he had been approached by the police for three wreaths.	
Vice-Chairman's report: Mark Brook confirmed all the wreaths ordered in December have arrived. He also said there are spare wreaths for those visiting the Islands who wanted to lay a wreath. He said if, by June, we need more for November, he'll put in another order. He has two more boxes of crosses. Crosses are £3 each.	
Treasurer's Report: Becky Rees has asked if she can have the AGM notes and Chris confirmed he'll provide them. The RBL in the UK have confirmed we can pay for wreaths with Poppy Appeal money. She also said that if we want to do a display for the Poppy Ball as Nancy Locke has suggested with a fall of handmade poppies, we need to start asking people to make them now.	
Secretary's Report: Tamsin Harris asked if members could please photograph any memorial mentions of a Cpl Love of 846 Squadron. It follows a request from a person who was his fiancé at the time he was killed. She also asked Richard Hyslop if she could pass on his contact details to BBC Radio Cornwall.	AII
Welfare Report: The Maskell-Botts confirmed they had nothing to report but reminded the committee that they're not	

current case workers at the moment.	
Membership:	
Nancy Locke proposed a date should be set for Tim Mean and Maeve to meet for a hand over.	Team Mean
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Any other Business:	
Richard Hyslop reported that four of his team were	
going to be helping to make some of the Silhouettes on the 15 th of February.	
Cimbactics on the 10 of 1 obligary.	
He reported that with concessionary flights	
suspended at the moment no veterans could travel	
to the Islands unless they paid the full amount. He said he was keen to get quarantine lifted to allow	
them to get to the Islands as hundreds of veterans	
are desperate to come down.	
They're gearing up for the National Army Museum	
exhibition that will run from 2 nd April to end June.	
The St Paul's Cathedral Service is shaping up to	
be a lot bigger than initially anticipated. It's on the 5 th April and there'll be military and MOD	
representatives.	
Richard said anyone in the UK wanting a badge they've produced, should email him and he'll put	UK based committee
one in the post.	members
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He reported he's continuing to work closely with	
the RBL over the event on 14 th June at the NMA.	
There'll be a service in St Margaret's, Westminster	
for the House of Lords and Parliament and the	
Royal Marines will also be beating retreat.	
Chris Locke thanked Richard for the briefs and	
said they were vital in keeping the Committee in	
the loop about the 40 th Anniversary plans.	
Nancy Locke said a Christmas card had been	
received from Ian Ashworth who was on HMS	
Hermes in '82 in which he sends his best wishes to	
everybody. She confirmed she would write back.	Nancy Locke
Nancy referred to the fall of poppies mentioned in	

Becky's report and said what she had in mind was a similar display to ones in the UK, where you have a fall of poppies from an upper window. She wondered about the Church Tower or from the Town Hall. She said it might be worth asking for help from the Beavers, Cubs, schools, craft groups, etc.	Nancy Locke
The Memorial Wood event made it on to UK TV and Jenny was spotted by family!	
Chris Locke said there'd been some negative publicity about a Silhouette which found its way to Sappers Hill without a head. He's retrieved it and it's in the back room of the Poppy Inn. We do have spare heads and 'Rocky' can weld one back on.	
The RBL have put out a notice asking any veterans from '82 if they want to tell their story and to contact media office. Chris has sent a brief note.	
Date and time of the next meeting: Friday 4 th March – 5.30pm Falklands, 20.30 UK time.	