Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Informal Committee Meeting Minutes.

7th May 2012.

Present: Liam Shelbourne (Treasurer)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Marvin Clark
David Lewis
Pam Lewis
Rev. Kathy Biles
Fr. Peter Norris
Trevor Law

Apologies for Absence: Neil Russell, John Clifford,

1. At the suggestion of Ginge Davis, the Treasurer had made enquiries about the potential installation of a wooden bench at the Cross of Sacrifice for the use of a visitors which wished to spend some time in quiet contemplation. PWD have declined to assist financially, and on enquiry from HQ we understand that we are unable to spend any Branch funds on local projects. Further enquiries will be made via the Planning and Lands Committees.

2. On a similar theme, HQ have also stated that we cannot spend Branch funds on a contribution towards the 14th June commemorations.

3. There is now a better relationship with Liberty Lodge. The RBL logo is to be placed on the sign board recognizing the large monetary contribution towards the cost of the Lodge, and RBL collecting tins are now in place in the Lodge. The Branch will facilitate the provision of fishing rods and a 2nd hand set of Golf Clubs for use by Lodge residents.

4. Keith Biles explained that he had been approached to act as a local focus for “Heroes Welcome”, a UK initiative to provide window stickers proclaiming that businesses of all sorts would welcome members of the Armed Services (and may even give a discount!). This scheme was developed I response to the highly negative experiences of all uniformed service personnel in UK recently. More information will be made available when the stickers arrive which hopefully will be before the end of May).

5. There were no welfare matters for discussion.

6. The 2011 Poppy order has now been received (by sea-mail), and the order for the 2012 season has been submitted. It is anticipated that this order will be in the Islands by the end of May 2012.

7. Crewe Branch have requested that FI branch sends a “few words” to be read out at their Commemoration service to mark the 30th Anniversary. The Treasurer had obtained a short piece from Trudi McPhee (as an adult who went through, and took an active part in, the Conflict); Donna Clausen (who was a child during the Conflict); and a poem by Jack Ford (13 years) who represents the current generation of Islanders. A covering message from the President and Committee of the FI branch was supplied by Keith Biles.

8. The branch has been asked to host a “function” as part of the 14th June commemorations. This will be held between 6 and 8 pm at Hillside Mess, and will have 130 places for guests plus 9 staff.

The sponsors have determined that all veterans on Island should be invited (but excludes FIDF vets). The allocation required, thus far, is as follows:

VIPs 32
Guest of Honour & party: 5
SAMA: 20 ?
RBL: 30
CBF: 7
Visiting Vets: 28
Government House: 2
FIG: 16 ?
The “Estantia Crowd”: 27

(This produces a total of 167)

Marvin Clark pointed out that there were other Islanders who also took an active part in assisting the British troops during the Conflict (from the south and west side of the island) and that they should also be recognised and invited. Dave Lewis and Marvin Clark would provide a list of names to Liam.

Liam was going to take the remarks back to the committee, and in view of the oversubscription for the available places, ask for the committee to determine how places should be allocated since not all demands could be met.

9. Any other business:

No topics raised.

10. Next Meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Branch will be on Monday, 4th June 2012. at 7.30 pm. The Committee should attempt to attend at 7 pm for a brief meeting.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.