Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.

5th September 2014.

Present: Liam Shelbourne (Chairman)
Pam Budd (Vice Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Annie Bailey (Treasurer)
Dave Lewis (Poppy Appeal Co-Ordinator)
Kathy Biles (Welfare)
Pam Lewis (Welfare)
Bob French (Media)

In attendance: Mark Neeves.

Apologies for Absence: John & Sarah Maskell-Bott;
Air Cdre. Russell La Forte (CBFSAI).

1. The Committee meetings scheduled for July and August were inquorate. The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd June 2014 were reviewed and certified as being correct .

2. Matters arising from the June meeting minutes:

    - No detailed record has been received, as yet, of the proceedings of the Annual Conference.

    - The order for the Branch shields is pending.

    - Biodegradable poppies for use in scattering of ashes at sea are not available from the RBL. Other possible sources will be researched by the Secretary.

3. Chairman's report:

    - The FIG Lands Committee have approved the placing of two benches at the Cross of Sacrifice. The Chairman will communicate this to Morrison's and Premier Oil.

    - The video and audio recordings of the service of Committal of Ashes at Sea of Andrew McCulloch, ex of HMS ARROW, have been forwarded to the Next of Kin.

    - The "Lights Out" ceremony initially held at the Cross of Sacrifice, and followed by a short service at the Pinn Inn was well attended. The event was broadcast by FIRS, and messages of appreciation were received from the community. Thanks were given to Annie Bailey for purchasing the candles in UK.

- Armed Forces Day was marked by opening the Club to branch members and members of HM Forces. There was a good attendance from MPA, and a convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

- It has been intimated that the Royal Signals contingent at MPA will be holding their own commemoration service at San Carlos on Remembrance Sunday. This will not reduce the support from MPA for the activities in Stanley.

4. Secretary's report: There were no items to report.

5. Treasurer's report:

    - The Branch accounting year ends on 30th June. Alison Baker has agreed to continue to act as Independent Reviewer for both the branch and the Club accounts.

    - Branch accounts are currently with the Reviewer, and a summary of the accounts was circulated to the committee for review and comment.

6. Rev. Kathy Biles reported that the containers for the scattering of ashes have been brought back from UK, and reimbursement of the cost (£ 220) to her was authorised. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Branch to her for arranging the supply.

7. Any Other Business:

    - The Chairman reported that the Chief of Staff at MPA has agreed to amend the BFSAI Directive on Alcohol such that the Club will be able to open on the 2nd Friday every month in addition to the other extant days. This Friday opening is to allow a "Family Evening" where children will be allowed in the bar area for a restricted time. Starting on Friday12th September the Club will open at 6 pm with children admitted between 7 and 9 pm. The club will close as usual at 10.30 pm. Arrangements have been made to provide food from Shorty's Diner selected from a short menu. Orders will be placed by 'phone and collected for consumption in the club between 6 and 8 pm on a half hourly rotation. Plates and cutlery will be provided by the Mess kitchen. It will be necessary for visitors and specifically children to be "signed in", with all children accompanied by a responsible adult. Children will be restricted to access the Club room only, and on no account should they be allowed access to the recreational equipment outside the Mess building, or other parts of the camp site.

    - Publicity for the Family Evening, which will also encourage new members, will be placed on the Community FaceBook page by Dave Lewis, supported by a general e-mail to branch members by the Chairman, and announcements on FIRS and in the Penguin News by the Secretary.

    - It was unanimously agreed that the name of the club premises should be changed to "The Poppy Inn" with immediate effect.

- Responsibility for the organization of the Poppy Ball on 7th November was allocated as follows:

Confirm booking of the Town Hall	Secretary
Entertainment, posters, tickets and printing	Chairman
Application for Drinks licence and provision of drinks	Mark Neeves
Provision of bar staff Dave Lewis to approach	John Birmingham
Set up tables and provide cloths and decorations	Sodexo
Cutlery and glasses	*To be determined*
Compère, disco and sound	BFBS
Food (from Malvina House Hotel ?)	Dave Lewis
Liaison with Community Choir	Dave Lewis
Decoration of Hall	Pam Budd
Raffle Prizes	All committee members
Raffle tickets	Annie Bailey.

- Local and MPA Poppy Appeal to be launched on 20th October.

- The date for the AGM (followed by a social evening) was provisionally fixed as 6.30 pm on Saturday 18th October subject to there being sufficient time to allow the necessary notices to be given. The Secretary to check.

8. The next meeting of the Committee will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 29th September 2014.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.