Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

6th July 2020

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, John Maskell Bott, Sarah Maskell-Bott, Tamsin Harris, Abby Poynter, Dave Lewis, Keith Biles, Mark Brook, Bob French. **Apologies:** Richard Hyslop and Maeve Daly-Llamosa.	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were signed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.	
Matters arising: Chris Locke said he hadn't sent a letter to the RBL as agreed previously and that it was probably too late now. Chris Locke confirmed he hadn't received any response from Bob Chambers and Fiona Hodges at the RBL as yet. He confirmed money that needed to be paid in to the account had now been done as instructed.	
Chairman's report: Chris Locke said he had laid a wreath on Liberation day (14th June) and John Whitby had carried the Standard. He said pictures had been sent to everyone and it had been a good day. He said he's received an email from the Military Wives Choir requesting the £50	Chris Locke/the Maskell-Botts

donation for their appearance at the Poppy Ball. The money will be paid by bank transfer by the Maskell-Botts, but only after checks have been made to ensure they don't want the money locally. If this is the case it will be paid in cash. Chris Locke said he would check with the choir. The annual conference has been reset for the 19th September. The venue hasn't been mentioned, but it's assumed it'll be where it was going to be on the original date. The Maskell-Botts say they can go, subject to their diary commitments, if we want representation there. They will certainly be attending the overseas forum. Chris Locke said he would investigate booking them in for the conference. Chris reported he had had an email about Branch Account Packs and that Abby Poynter would talk about this.	Chris Locke/the Maskell-Botts
Vice Chairman's report: Mark Brook reported that the BFSAI Command Warrant Officer says he paid the donation cheque to the RBL in the UK three weeks ago (because of circumstances in the Islands at the time). This will include money from an unspecified event at MPA. Mark believes the amount is £1,897. Chris Locke said it was a shame that the cheque could not have been presented and then paid into the Branch's account but understood the situation and agreed that at the end of the day it all goes to the same fund. Mark says this payment should now complete the income from the Poppy Appeal 2019. He confirmed wreaths have gone to Gilbert House and to Government House. Hillside is still on temporary lock down with limited access only, so	Mark Brook

Mark said when he can get full access, he will get the other wreaths and deliver them to relevant people. Dave Lewis asked that money collected is recorded as having come from the Falklands (see Vice Chairman's report).	
Secretary's report: Tamsin Harris confirmed she had nothing to report.	
Membership Secretary report: No report was submitted. Chris Locke said he had received a couple of calls regarding membership renewal.	
Treasurer's report: Abby Poynter said the Branch return is due by 30 September. She has a better idea of what it will take this time round so it shouldn't be too arduous. Abby hopes to have the content ready for approval at the next meeting in August. Abby confirmed we need a better system of working out membership payments so they are in line with the accounts. Abby then shared the updated account details.	Abby Poynter
Welfare Report: John and Sarah Maskell-Bott reported that's still very quiet on this front. On Liberation Day they went to Portsmouth. Someone there was filming and said they were going to send the content to the Falklands. They asked if anyone had seen it. Nancy Locke said she thought she'd seen it on Facebook. It was a good occasion and people stopped to ask what was going on. It was, they said, impressive in lock down and very moving.	

Again, it was mentioned whether people in the Falklands realise welfare is available to them, both our pot of money and that of the wider RBL. It was agreed people do need to make contact if they know of somebody in need as it is not always going to be possible for the Committee or Branch members to know full details. Keith Biles said it was worth making sure social services are aware of what we can offer by way of support. We can give them more information in case. John Maskell-Bott said in the UK all doctor's surgeries should know who their veterans are now thanks to the Veterans card. Mark Brook said there had been a few issues with the card so it's on hold at the moment until they sort out the glitches. It was asked if it was worth asking if there is an MLA for Veterans Affairs. Keith Biles said there isn't one that's specific to veterans.	
Any Other Business: Dave Lewis reported that one of the Branch's older members is quite poorly, Frank Leyland. Nancy Locke said she had been in touch with the family and the Maskell-Botts said they would get in touch to check if they could help via welfare in any way. Abby Poynter said that for some reason the new Outlook system that the RBL use isn't working so well on some platforms so please could people send emails to her personal email address as well as her RBL one. She also said she would like to become a LOMAS user if anyone has any knowledge. It's the UK system and would make life easier. She'll contact HQ and try and get that sorted for the	John and Sarah Maskell-Bott All Abby Poynter

next financial year. Nancy Locke said plans for this year's Poppy Ball are very much up in the air. A suggestion had been made that we perhaps just have a charity meal in the Malvina this year, socially distanced of course. She said we could still have a raffle to fundraise, but this would allow us to do something around the usual time we would host the event. The Malvina could provide around 80 covers if people come in their own bubbles. It was agreed this would be a good compromise and would ensure we remained visible and maintained our presence. A date needs to be booked, though the Town Hall booking is still in the diary. It was agreed that the Zoom meeting is working well and as we use it more we're getting more familiar with it.	Chris Locke
Date of the next meeting: Monday 3rd August at 5.30pm Falkland time (9.30pm UK time).	All