Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

5th February 2021

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Becky Rees, Keith Biles, Tamsin Harris, Bob French, Mark Brook, Richard Hyslop and John and Sarah Maskell-Bott, Dave Lewis.	
Apologies: Maeve Daly-Llamosa	
Minutes of the last meeting: It was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed.	
Matters arising: Sarah Maskell-Bott has not yet sorted the welfare training but confirmed they would do. CBF attend the social event last month along with a team from BFSAI. Hopefully they will attend another social soon. Becky said she hadn't talked to the FIG's Chief Executive regarding the Poppy Inn. It was subsequently agreed to wait talking to him and see what happens regarding Hillside and it's future. Mark Brook's name was put forward as the FI Branch Poppy Appeal Coordinator. Ian Shickle's contact details have been found and Chris will contact him by e-mail. The newsletter is now on the branch website thanks to Bob French.	**John and Sarah Maskell-Bott** **Chris Locke**
Chairman's Report: Chris Locke reported that the Hillside handover from the MoD to FIG was due to formally take place tomorrow, Saturday 6th February but	

because of the recent lockdown at MPA this has been postponed. However all staff at Hillside had moved off the premises and were now at MPC. As a consequence the gates would be locked although Mr. Chamberlain, the MoD representative in Stanley, would hold the key. For tomorrow evening's social Mr. Chamberlain will open Hillside at 1900. It would be locked again at 2230. Chris confirmed that while Hillside remained unoccupied the Committee would need to go through Mr Chamberlain for the key if they need to get into the Poppy Inn or the storeroom. Chris confirmed he has the paperwork to apply to run the Poppy Inn Bar as a club and when the date for handover is known we he will submit the form to the courts. Until FIG decided what they're doing for the long term with Hillside we will be given a short-term lease to use the Poppy Inn. We will need to talk with The Director of the Public Works Department, Mr. Colin Summers, regarding long-term plans. Chris Locke then went on to talk about the RBL's new logo, saying it was growing on him but he wasn't sure he fully agreed with the rebrand. He thanked Becky Rees for sharing it on Facebook so everyone could see it. There was a discussion about the logo and the cost and it was felt after everything had been considered it was a relatively small amount in general terms. It was noted that the website needed updating in terms of events and that it needed to reflect the new Honorary President, Commodore Jonathan Lett. Bob did the necessary updates during the meeting.	**Chris Locke**
Vice-Chairman's Report: Mark Brook said he's been in touch with the Command Warrant Officer who is very happy to receive post for the Branch via MPA. Mark confirmed he would liaise with him every few weeks to collect any mail.	**Mark Brook**

With regard to wreaths, Mark said he was collating the list of who want them and would then order them at the end of this month, or early March.	**Mark Brook**
Treasurer's Report: Nancy Locke confirmed she had typed up the minutes of the AGM and given them to the Chairman. There was discussion and agreement around the fact the Branch should promote how much the islands had raised and then sent back to the RBL as part of the Poppy Appeal given it's always a very good figure.	
Secretary's Report: Tamsin Harris said she had nothing to report.	
Welfare Report: John and Sarah Maskell-Bott said they had nothing to report.	
Any Other Business: Chris Locke confirmed the annual conference this year is 15/16 May in London at QE2 centre. Becky Rees asked if the Branch were doing anything to mark the RBL 100th anniversary in May. Chris Locke said we should think about this and confirmed the theme of the Poppy Ball would be based on the Anniversary. A Tea Dance was suggested to be held to coincide with the Centenary date of 15th May. It was agreed to focus on this at the next meeting with any ideas being emailed to Chris Locke beforehand. There was discussion about where everything would go if we had to move out of the Poppy Inn and Chris Locke said he was conscious of this and aware we would need a plan if necessary. Richard Hyslop briefed the committee saying these are busy times, what with lock down and Falkland business. The 40th anniversary is growing with a range of different organisations	**All** **Chris Locke**

planning things. He's trying to tap in to Festival of Remembrance to ensure next year's event features the 40th Anniversary and that the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh can reference it in some way too. Chris Locke said he had had an informal chat with Phyl Rendell, Chair of the 40th Anniversary group in the islands. He said she's keen to involve the RBL as much as she can and Chris had agreed to help in any way. Chris Locke confirmed that overall Overseas Branches had sent back a contribution of £585,000 to the RBL. With regard to the Annual Conference, John and Sarah Maskell-Bott confirmed they were heading back in late May, but Richard Hyslop said he would be surprised if the event went ahead. Applications to attend had to be in by 2nd April and it was agreed to submit the Maskell-Bott's names.	**Richard Hyslop** **Chris Locke**
Date and time of the next meeting: Friday 5th March on Zoom – 6pm Falkland's time and 9pm UK time.	