

Royal British Legion
 Falkland Islands Branch
Committee Meeting Minutes
 Friday 5th July 2024

Agenda Item:	Actions:
<p>Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Keith Biles, Bob French, Tamsin Harris, Mark Brook, Jenny Clarke, Hogs Hegarty, John and Sarah Maskell-Bott.</p>	
<p>Apologies: Richard Hyslop, Tim Mean.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the last meeting: Chris thanked everyone for joining the Zoom meeting.</p> <p>TH agreed to send the last minutes from July 2023 to CL and BF again.</p> <p>CL apologised for the delay in organising recent meetings and said he'd lost a bit momentum after the AGM given all the issues around the future of the Poppy Inn and the lack of clarity about government intent. There has been an on-going issue with the Chairman's e-mail account what has further complicated issues.</p>	TH
<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Most covered during this meeting.</p>	
<p>Chairman's Report: CL reflected on activities where wreaths have been laid and confirmed representatives of the RBL had been present. This included Landing day on 21st May, Fitzroy on 8th June and liberation Day on 14th June. CL said he was in South Georgia for Liberation Day and made an informal wreath which was placed at the SG Liberation Memorial.</p> <p>CL said his last message from Colin Summers suggested it's still uncertain what's happening with the</p>	CL CL

<p>main building at Hillside where the Poppy Inn is situated. He said he should know more next week, but there are suggestions that there'll be a huge cost to developing the site and this may delay matters further. Nothing is likely to happen until the end of this year or the start of 2025. CL did emphasise that it's important we think about the future. He said we could use a local pub, but we should consider all ideas as its important the RBL carry on.</p> <p>CL is in the UK soon and hopes to sort out his RBL account. It appears the membership needs to be sorted too, but MB said the RBL had reported they were having trouble with membership nationally.</p> <p>CL thanked JC for her support as Standard Bearer on Liberation Day.</p>	<p>CL</p>
<p>Vice-Chairman's report: MB said he's been in touch with the RBL Membership team asking for our account to be reset. He wasn't sure if we'd returned our membership form last year so had downloaded one to make sure we do it this time round, confirming our names and membership numbers. He'll continue to collate this and send it in on behalf of CL.</p> <p>Wreaths had been distributed and MB attended Landing Day with CL and KB.</p> <p>MB said during the last few months, events at the Poppy Inn had been poorly attended. Liberation Day was very quiet, which surprised him as crew from HMS FORTH were due to attend, but most didn't appear.</p>	<p>MB</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: HH reported there had been little activity on our accounts.</p> <p>Money in the Poppy Appeal account is being sent back to the RBL Poppy Appeal (£9,839).</p> <p>The Branch Accounts will be sent to Alison in August when the paperwork will be ready and we'll then send a return off to the RBL.</p>	<p>HH</p> <p>HH</p>
<p>Secretary's Report:</p>	

Nothing to report.	
<p>Welfare Report: JMB and SMB said there was nothing to report, confirming one confidential matter had been resolved successfully since the committee last met.</p>	
<p>Membership: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>AOB: MB said that with regard to a Poppy Ball, the Town Hall had been provisionally booked for Friday 8th November. He's trying to get in touch with Carl at The Malvina Hotel. He confirmed he was doing this as people have been asking if we're having an event. MB will lead on the Poppy Ball as CL and NL are overseas for a period of time. MB said several people have offered to help with key activities such as the bar.</p> <p>MB said a container had now been moved in to town (was at Fitzroy) and it will be found a permanent home. There was a charge for moving it and he will forward this to the Treasurer.</p> <p>The RBL wheelchair is being used at the moment.</p> <p>MB said he has ordered 2024 lapel badges and overseas badges and a few other bits and pieces and should arrive in August this year, well ahead of time. He added that there are some other items behind the bar at the moment and he'll sell them to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.</p> <p>BF said he'd attended the National Arboretum for Armed Forces Day with his Bikers group.</p> <p>JC reported the sad news that Roy 'Ginge' Davis had passed away last week.</p> <p>NL said she now has contact with the Acting Civilian/Military Liaison Officer at MPC who wants to be keep abreast of RBL news, including the Poppy Ball. She's also in contact with the Military Wives Choir who would love to be asked to sing at the event.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>

<p>It was agreed that it would be good to organise some events, such as the popular Curry night, HH suggested a quiz as they're popular and a date of Friday 2nd August was suggested. MB said he wanted to get fit before any dates are booked. The first Friday in September was suggested as an alternative.</p> <p>MB said it was very important to ensure that before the AGM we have checked that everyone on the committee is a member of the Branch. It was agreed that the AGM would be on 18th October 2024 at a venue with WiFi so those not on the Islands can join.</p> <p>HH said that once we've sorted out the membership, we need to look ahead and start recruiting people, reminding them we're here.</p> <p>CL thanked MB for everything he did with the Standing with Giants project. The silhouettes have stayed in the Islands and are in a container at Mare Harbour where they're being looked after by Sharky Ward. Before they were moved, CL took 10 silhouettes out of the container; they're backstage in the Town Hall for use at such events as the Poppy Ball.</p> <p>CL said that while he was in South Georgia he noticed there was a few poppies in a small box on which was written 'please return after use'. He thought we it would be appropriate to send a box down with a tin so people don't have to reuse them. This was agreed. CL will pass a poppy box and tin to the South Georgia Government at Government House.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>CL/MB</p>
<p>Date and time of the next meeting: Friday 2nd August 2024, 5pm (Falkland time) 9pm (UK time).</p>	