

Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

17th April 2025

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke (CL), Keith Biles (KB), Bob French (BF), Mark Brook (MB), John Maskell Bott (JMB), Sarah Maskell-Bott SMB), Richard Hyslop (RH), Tamsin Harris (TH), Hegg Hegarty (HH).	
Apologies: Nancy Locke (NL) who was poorly. Jenny Clarke (JC).	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
Matters Arising: HH's name was left off the minutes. CL to update the minutes accordingly. JMB and SMB were named twice in the list of those present. This too will be amended.	CL
Chairman's Report: CL felt the venue for the AGM had worked well, with more people attending, including those who were online. He said he was pleased it was a positive meeting. CL said he had one key issue to raise and that was the reply from the MLAs to his letter about The Poppy Inn. He said it was sad to see them saying they can't help us and referred to them wishing us luck using the Racecourse Bar. MB said he had tried to host a social in one of the pubs and three people turned up, so it wasn't a great success. He added that it had perhaps not been publicised well enough. CL said he felt The Poppy Inn was a lost cause. BF asked if it was time to contact the national press. CL ended by saying he felt the MLAs didn't value the RBL as much as he thought they did. CL confirmed he carried the Standard for JC, who wasn't available, for a dedication of a new Memorial for the helicopter that went down off Cape Pembroke.	

<p>Vice-Chairman's report: MB confirmed he had been in touch with the Racecourse and was awaiting some information. He said he would be following up with them to see what we could arrange.</p> <p>MB has ordered this year's wreaths and they should arrive by the end of the month (April). He has also ordered 2025 lapel pins. He said he had received a request from the Royal Marines who still owe him money, but he will chase this up.</p> <p>MB said he had been asked if we could do special 'deals' on wreaths for other charitable associations. The committee agreed that this wasn't suitable as the RBL is also a charity and the wreaths are already a good price (£20 and £25).</p> <p>MB confirmed he has started to store items in the container with some more things from the bar to move across. He said he had lent out our gazebo to the radio station who were delighted with it and may use it again.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: HH said he had sent £10,792 to the RBL. The accounts are due by 31st June and he will ensure they are sorted and passed to our Accountant.</p>	<p>HH</p>
<p>Secretary's Report: Nothing to report, other than the AGM venue was great as it allowed many more people to attend virtually.</p>	
<p>Welfare Report: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Membership: Nothing reported.</p>	
<p>AOB: HH said there is an interim CBF for 6 weeks before the new full time one arrives (an Army Brigadier, Royal Artillery). He reminded the committee that we will need to make contact with him once he's in post.</p> <p>HH asked if the committee could write a letter on behalf of all veterans in the Falklands, requesting that all those who have veteran cards be allowed to use the NAFFI. HH to draft a letter for CL. JMB said the letter needed to go to the NAFFI rather than CBF, as it's their contract/constitution.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>HH/CL</p>

CBF has no authority over the NAFFI. There was a discussion about this and what has happened in the past when such requests have been made.

CL referenced a proposal from the Vicar that the RBL should lead on taking memorial services outside of Stanley and confirmed that as a Church Councillor, he didn't agree with the proposal. There was a detailed discussion during which it was clarified by KB that the Clergy are happy to attend these camp events, but on invitation. The Vicar doesn't want to be responsible for the organisation of the events. He said the RBL are the guardians of remembrance and it was an opportunity give the RBL more credence. It was felt there was a need to clarify if the Vicar is looking for local people to organise the events with RBL support, and to confirm that she will still attend and lead the services. It was agreed CL would report back after the Church Council meeting.

On the subject of VE Day 80, CL said he would have loved to do something, but he won't be around. He confirmed the FIDF will be arranging an event. RH added that after concern that there was little or no mention of the overseas territories or The Falklands as part of VE Day 80, they've produced a small film concentrating on the islands and the islanders contributions and this will be released in the UK and in The Falklands. He added that he has been invited to the Westminster Abbey service and an event on Horse Guards Parade. CL said he will be on The Hoe in Plymouth for the day.

CL said he had received a notification from the court confirming it was time for the renewal of the license for The Poppy Inn. MB said the current one runs out on 30th June, so we could use the bar for a last event before that date. It was agreed to let the court know if we're not going to renew.

There was discussion about the possibility of a Poppy Ball, given the Town Hall isn't available in November. MB suggested the committee ask MPA to host it this year. He said with everyone's agreement, that he would approach them.

The meeting ended at 22:05.

CL

CL

MB

Date and time of the next meeting:

To be confirmed at a later date.