**MINUTES – COMMITTEE MTG 27**

**YEOVIL AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**29 FEB 2024**

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE BY CHAIRMAN**

**CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS**

**The Chairman thanked all those in attendance for turning out.**

**He stated that the change of date was initially done to ensure that there was a decent cross section of opinion and ideas for the subjects in hand, however, three people have had to call off for the evening so we will do what we can.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Simon WOODROW(Chairman), Tim TATLER (Vice Chairman), Andy KENDALL (Treasurer) and Popeye LAW (Webmaster and Committee Member)**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Lt Col (Ret’d) CA Le HARDY (President), John EMERY (Secretary), Alun SMITH (Vice Chairman), Tony “Cozy” POWELL, Craig PRICE.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING 26**

**These minutes had been circulated by the Secretary, and had been seen, read and agreed as a true and accurate record by all those present.**

**A copy of those minutes was signed and dated by the Chairman, and retained for forwarding to the Secretary.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

**None recorded**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

**The Chairman stated that he continued to make rotations into Eastern Europe, that being Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Lithuania, in order to continue working as a volunteer Trauma Medic in the Ukraine/Russia war.**

**He reported that at this point he was owed £955.60. The lack of progression in obtaining the monies was now directly impacting the ability to carry out the essential welfare work for which Somerset, and in particular the Yeovil and District Branch was able to provide to those requiring it. At this juncture he is able to carry out telephone contact, and email “buddying” only, due to lack of funds.**

**He currently holds an authorized payment to be recompensed from the branch accounts to the value of £165.60. A vote was taken in relation to this payment which was passed unanimously, with the Chairman abstaining.**

**The Chairman requested any update in relation to the availability of basic recruitment leaflets. Several people mentioned the other recruitment publicity opportunity, that being a half page advert in the free Yeovil Press. This will be discussed later in the meeting.**

**The Chairman mentioned that he will contact County Office to request a slack handful at least, of the relevant paperwork.**

**Finally, the Chairman brought to the attention of those present the two annual projects that he will be concentrating on.**

**A, 80th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day (Operation NEPTUNE being part of the larger Operation OVERLORD).**

**B, Falklands War Annual Service of Commemoration.**

**These events will take place on 06th June and 14th June 2024 respectively.**

**Any and all ideas are welcome with draft final plan to hopefully be ready for the next meeting.**

**VICE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Tim TATLER)**

**Vice Chairman reinforced that we now have three trained Standard Bearers, and we just need to check the status in respect of the training for Alun SMITH. We appear to have a complete set of equipment for the role, but there will be a further action from the Chairman to update the Branch Asset Register.**

**The Vice Chairman also mentioned that it would be a good idea to establish if we could obtain any attendance from personnel at RNAS Yeovilton for the Falklands Memorial Service on 14th June 24.**

**The Vice Chairman also suggested the instigation of branch affiliation with other groups. He did mention that some time ago whilst working with the ACF, he was part of a team that facilitated this. The Chairman mentioned that a former Chairman had supposedly attended the Yeovil Det of the ACF, and had been material in sorting this. He also stated that he himself had attempted to get this done two years ago. He had contacted all three main service youth organisations, but had only received one reply.**

**It was decided that at least the following organisations should be contacted for this idea.**

**Sea and Marine Cadets, ACF, Air Training Corps, Scouts, Guides and their other groups, Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club, Boys Brigade, along with other Remembrance Sunday groups and attendees.**

**The RBL is helping to organize a single Armed Forces Day event in Vivary Park, Taunton, so the Y and D branch will not be holding a separate event.**

**VICE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Alun SMITH)**

**AS was unavoidably absent on family welfare matters.**

**TREASURERS REPORT**

**The treasurer stated that after the closure of the Barclays Bank account, the branch was left without means of banking.**

**After receiving a cheque for the balance from Barclays, both he and the Chairman had gathered opinions as to our options, and as a result it was decided to visit Lloyds Bank PLC in Yeovil to ascertain the possibility of opening an account there.**

**The Treasurer and the Chairman went to the bank and were directed in respect of opening said account.**

**The Treasurer is now in possession of a relevant documents to run the account, along with a debit card to operate electronic banking.**

**The Treasurer spoke in relation to the cost of taking out a half page advert, to combine recruitment and events in the free Yeovil Press.**

**It was agreed that we could/should approach County Office in the first instance to see if there was a preferred format of design and wording**

**The sum of £200 was put forward. All were in agreement as to this amount**

**P – AK S – TT (Carried unanimously)**

**PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS**

**The President was unavoidably absent due to personal health matters.**

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**The Secretary was unavoidably absent on family welfare matters.**

**CHANGES TO RBL CONSTITUTION**

**There has been no further update in respect of any proposed changes that were known to the members present. It was last reported that there was a proposed change to the “make up” of the governing committees, and if anything else becomes known, it will be reported at the next meeting...**

**NATIONAL ARBORETUM VISIT**

**In view of the “ownership” of this proposed event, the Chairman reported that he was unable to devote time or monies to this at the present time, due to the aforementioned financial constraints. AK is still recovering from health issues. The Vice Chairman (TT) and Popeye both mentioned the possibility of farming out the idea to the Armed Forces Veterans Club. This suggestion was welcomed by the Chairman and AK, with the caveat that the Chairman wanted to ascertain that if it was a RBL led event, to allow another organization to take ownership of it could negate the corporate insurance in place. It was suggested thereafter that if there are any volunteers, they be recruited as members prior to further responsibilities.**

**There was a list of other groups formulated that those present felt could be invited to take part. Those were the Yeovil and District Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club, SSAFA, South Atlantic Medal Association 1982, via Cozy POWELL, and also other local RBL Branches.**

**POPEYE LAW (Webmaster/Member)**

**Popeye has been very busy in relation to the updating, formatting and the overall running of the Yeovil and District Branch webpage. It now contains hyperlinks to various areas of the National Webpage, it contains a list of relevant anniversaries and events for this year, the 80th D-Day Commemoration and the Falklands Commemoration.**

**Committee Meeting minutes will be published on the branch webpage.**

**A link to the Yeovil AFVBC will be included.**

**Links to the Branch Facebook page and general recruitment will be available.**

**Popeye expressed concern over the general maintenance state of the Falklands Memorial Plaque in the grounds of St John’s Church. It is said that the memorial is now surrounded by a flat blank area to the rear, due to the former flowerbed having been removed and not replaced, along with a need to be cleaned and/or turfed.**

**The Chairman mentioned that he had previously spoken to Steve FOX, and it had been agreed that a seasonal bed would replace the old one, however, with the change of council structure, that could now be negated.**

**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

**Update in respect of the Falklands Memorial site.**

**Popeye LAW to use meeting to update the committee in respect of his CWGC work.**

**Update for Falklands Service for contact with detachment from RNAS Yeovilton, YESS Club attendance, and Town Council update ref ownership of the site.**

**Any attendance at the Anzac Day Parade and Service in London.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**18th Apr 2024**

**KOHIMA CLOSING PRAYER BY CHAIRMAN**