Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 9th January 2023

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Keith Biles, John Maskell-Bott, Sarah Maskell-Bott, Richard Hyslop, Bob French, Tamsin Harris, Jenny Clarke, Mark Brook, Richard Hyslop.	
Apologies: Becky Rees, Tim Mean.	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	**All**
Matters Arising: Chris Locke apologised that there was no meeting in December and confirmed the last minutes date back to October. He also said some matters would be covered in his chairman's report.	
Chairman's Report: Chris Locke confirmed the Noel Rogers Trophy had arrived in the Falklands thanks to Richard Hyslop who brought it to the Falklands when he visited in November. Chris confirmed the bank issue was sorted and thanked Keith Biles for all his help in taking the matter forward. The RBL Falklands Branch is now listed on the Local Charities list which gets over some of the key issues the Bank had. Operation Corporate Veteran went really well and Chris confirmed the Branch played an important part. The last night of the visit was a real success at the Poppy Inn, thanks to all who were involved. Chris has written a letter to the MLA's about concerns over the future development of Hillside Camp and in	**Chris Locke**

particular the Poppy Inn. Chris has also spoken to Colin Summers who confirmed that as far as he's aware, plans are being made for the main building to be development in to offices for the Falkland Island Government. Chris has sent a copy of the letter that outlines our concerns and reminds MLAs what the RBL does, to The Governor and to CBF who is our President.	
Vice-Chairman's report: Mark Brook confirmed he'd managed to gather up the Poppy Tins and between £700 and £1,000 has been collected. He said that on top of this, sales of lapel pins had raised around £700. He also confirmed that a donation from the bar of £1,000 had been given to the Poppy Appeal for this year. Mark also said it it had been well worth opening on the extra days during Op Corporate Veteran and said he'd kept some monies in the bank in case we have to move. Becky Rees can confirm how much was sent back to the RBL at the request of the Poppy Appeal.	**Becky Rees**
Treasurer's Report: Chris Locke said total funds returned to the RBL amounted to around £15,000 and included wreath money. He said the Branch should apply again for this year's Noel Rogers Trophy as this year's total represented one of our biggest returns. Nancy Locke added that the money included Pennies for Poppies and the collection from the Cathedral. Chris offered thanks to Mark Brook as the £1,000 donation from the bar represents an incredible amount.	
Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.	
Welfare Report: The chair has arrived and needs to be checked to ensure it works post the journey. The Committee now need to consider who's going to use it and draw up an agreement about its use, cleaning it and caring for it for use by those who use it and their carers.	**All**
Membership: No report.	

AOB: Richard Hyslop said life was quieter now that the 40th Anniversary was over. He's now focussing on other matters, including a project based on providing place names reflecting those who died in the conflict. A professional website designer is building an interactive website so people can click on the locations to find out about the person and the place named after them. This will be launched sometime this year. Nancy Locke thanked Richard for his hard work throughout the Anniversary. Richard said the RBL played a big part in a lot of the activities. John Maskell Bott congratulated Richard on his social media posts that had been very informative.	
The Standing with Giants statues are still here and stored in the Polar Seafish warehouse however more work is required to box them and stow properly. A working party to help would be appreciated. The plan is to get them sent back to the UK. Chris Locke said it was a shame more RBL members did not come along to help take them down. Without the MoD's help it would have taken a long time! Grateful thanks to the Command Warrant Officer and his team.	**Chris Locke**
It was confirmed the Government House reception originally planned for for this Tuesday had been rescheduled for Thursday. There was a discussion about the emailed invitations coming to named people 'and their partners'.	
With regard to the Poppy Ball, Chris and Nancy Locke said they found they had less than positive feelings about the last Ball and believe they need to re-adjust a few things to make it simpler to deliver. Having Nigel Bishop run the bar made a difference as the difficult issue of finding volunteers was overcome. However, getting sponsors and asking for raffle prizes had been difficult this year. Noting the above it was still good to know that the Ball raised nearly £4,000, which is fantastic news. Nancy asked whether the Committee should review whether we should have a Poppy Ball in the future.	**All**
Jenny Clarke said she'd see if she could track down a draft loan agreement for the chair so we have something to work from.	**Jenny Clarke**

Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 6th February (3rd of Feb will be a social at the Poppy Inn). 1800 Falkland time – 2100 UK time.	