

Royal British Legion
 Falkland Islands Branch
Committee Meeting Minutes
 Friday 10th February 2023

Agenda Item:	Actions:
<p>Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Keith Biles, John Maskell-Bott, Sarah Maskell-Bott, Bob French, Tamsin Harris, Richard Hyslop.</p>	
<p>Apologies: Jenny Clarke, Becky Rees, Mark Brooke and Tim Mean.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	All
<p>Matters Arising: Chris Locke has written to the MLAs – see the Chairman’s report.</p> <p>Chris confirmed Becky Rees has sent £15,000 to the Royal British Legion.</p> <p>Standing with Giants is addressed in the Chairman’s report.</p>	
<p>Chairman’s Report: With regard to the ‘Standing with Giants’ silhouettes, at the moment they’re in the Polar Seafish warehouse and need work doing to them before they’re boxed up. Chris Locke said this would involve volunteer support. He said it would appear the MOD would not support the transporting of the statues back to the UK. Keith Biles reminded Chris that there are some in the Cathedral still. Phyl Rendell, Chair of the Falklands 40 Committee has provisionally offered some funds to Dan Barton to allow the Silhouettes to remain in the Islands. However it was also suggested that perhaps this money could be used to help fund their shipment back to the UK.</p>	Chris Locke

<p>Richard Hyslop said there was now an idea to produce three giant statues representing the Army, Navy and Airforce. The feedback is that as there's so many memorials already, there's a concern about maintenance. John Maskell-Bott added that feedback from the local community who were present in '82 was that they didn't like the statues as they are upsetting and a harsh reminder. Richard is going to say thank you for the idea but refuse the offer. Chris also said some people had approached him to ask about buying a statue.</p> <p>With regard to the future of the Hillside Camp, Chris said he was delighted that five MLAs attended the reception at Government House and confirmed that the committee had now seen the letter that's been sent to the MLAs about the work of the RBL and the future for the Poppy Inn. Chris said he has no idea what's going to happen at this stage, but people are certainly thinking about the subject right now. Richard Hyslop asked if it was worth copying the letter to Tom Herring, Chairman of SAMA, asking him to confirm how important the Poppy Inn is to veterans. It was agreed that this was a good idea. John Maskell-Bott said a copy should also be sent to FBF in Portsmouth. It was confirmed that the next step should be a public campaign.</p>	<p>Richard Hyslop</p> <p>Chris Locke</p>
<p>Vice-Chairman's report: Nancy Locke reported that she had spoken with Mark Brooke and that he'd confirmed he was chasing wreath orders from Government House and Gilbert House. The last social meeting was attended by 4 people but events need to bring in more people so he has plans for future activities, including a Treasure Hunt.</p>	<p>Mark Brooke</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: It was confirmed in Becky Rees's absence that money from the Poppy Account had been transferred back to the Royal British Legion in the UK.</p>	
<p>Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Welfare Report: With regard to the recently purchased chair, it was confirmed Jenny Clarke had produced a suitable agreement, but that caution was needed about lending</p>	

<p>it out as we will be legally responsible for its condition. Sarah Maskell-Bott is leading on this and says we must protect ourselves from the liability of it. Bob French suggested taking out liability insurance for it but it was agreed that this would mean extra cost. The committee agreed that a check should be made to see if the RBL liability insurance would cover it. It's currently stored in the meeting room.</p>	<p>Sarah Maskell-Bott Jenny Clarke</p>
<p>Membership: No report presented.</p>	
<p>AOB: Nancy Locke confirmed she had met two RBL Members who visited the Islands from a cruise ship. She assisted them with laying a wreath and said they sent their best wishes to everyone.</p> <p>It was reported that we've been notified about a visit by a lady who is coming in April on her own. Her brother served in '82 and has now died. She will be scattering his ashes. Nancy will coordinate with Liberty Lodge where she's staying. Richard Hyslop is to liaise with Sarah Maskell-Bott so she can offer further support to the lady when she's back in the UK.</p> <p>Chris Locke reported that he has been told that for maintenance reasons, the Town Hall is going to be shut from the end of July to November and that no bookings are being taken thus putting a question mark over the this year's Poppy Ball. He added, the last Ball took a lot of effort to arrange with many complications and he and Nancy needed a break this year. As a result they have come up with the idea of having a Poppy Dinner hosted in The Malvina. There wouldn't be a band or an act of remembrance, but the Standard could be paraded and there could be a raffle/draw and a lucky ticket although it would be nice if somebody else could run with this part of the event. It would mean a lot less organising and a welcome pause before refreshing the Ball for 2024. John Maskell-Bott said it was an excellent idea. Chris Locke to contact The Malvina and get a date pencilled in the diary.</p>	<p>Nancy Locke, Richard Hyslop, Sarah Maskell-Bott</p>