

Minutes of The Royal British Legion Scotland, Thurso Branch Committee meeting held in the Clubrooms, Riverside Road on Thursday 28 July 2022 at 1830 hrs.

Present: Simon Middlemas Chair
Joe McNeil
Alex Mathers
John Blake
Dean Bowman
Robert Gray
Zena Latcham
June Love

In attendance: Angus Lapslie, Local Army Reserve unit

Apologies: Mike Ennis
Tim Hooper
Karin Freeman
Ron Galloway
Albert McIvor

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Simon Middlemas, Chair, welcomed those present. He introduced Angus Lapslie to the members and welcomed him to the meeting.

2. SILENT TRIBUTE

Simon Middlemas led the silent tribute.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Simon Middlemas stated there was no initial remarks to be made but would be picked up through the agenda items.

4. LOCAL ARMY RESERVES

Angus Lapslie thanked Simon Middlemas for allowing him to attend. He provided members with his background noting that he was currently looking to work with others and offer support for events such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday.

He added that at present there were currently 6 reserves within the Caithness Reserves and would be looking to grow this over the coming months.

It was noted that for Remembrance Sunday his contact with be Dean Bowman.

The Committee agreed that they would stay in regular contact to ensure support was available as required.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Branch meeting, RBL-TBC(2022)M002, held in the Clubrooms on Thursday 26 May 2022 were reviewed and accepted on a motion by Joe MacNeil seconded by Zena Latcham.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

See Appendix.

7. BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe McNeil noted the following:

- Branch accounts remained fairly static. Balance showed around £8.4k after fees and invoices had been paid.
- It was noted that there was further membership fees to come in.

Simon Middlemas asked that an action be placed on Ron Galloway to finalise the list of email address for both Branch and Club members.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A01: Ron Galloway to finalise list of electronic addresses for both Branch and Club members.

8. ANGLING CONVENOR'S REPORT

John Blake noted that:

- The angling was back up and running with 4 competitions.
- There had been three angling trips.
- There had been two scrapped spare engines which had been sold for £100.
- There was no plans to organise a charity event.

9. WELFARE REPORT

Zena Latcham noted that despite changing the day of the drop-ins take up had been very low even with advertisements utilising various social media platforms.

Following a full discussion it was agreed that Zena should stop this activity in terms of trying to identify people and that a phone number would be placed on the website welfare page so that anyone requiring support and assistance could make contact should they wish to do so. It was further agreed that the website welfare pages needed to be updated.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A02: Simon Middlemas and Zena Latcham to get together to update welfare website pages.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A03: Zena Latcham to speak with Donald Sinclair about getting content on Facebook that could drive people to website welfare pages.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Middlemas noted that there was no-one on the committee taking forward communications at this time. Donald Sinclair continued to maintain the Facebook page.

Simon Middlemas also suggested that it would be worthwhile looking to get an editorial with the local press once the hall had been completely refurbished.

11. BRANCH AND CLUB COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Simon Middlemas reminded members that all had taken an action at the last meeting to discuss potential people who may wish to join the committee at either Branch or Club.

A separate note of this discussion is held. It was further noted that while some people had been approached they had indicated they would be willing to help out but did not wish to sit on a committee. It was agreed as well as pursuing potential committee members a volunteers list should be drawn up so that others could be called on to help with hall set ups, etc.

Dean Bowman asked what committee positions were dictated by constitution. Simon Middlemas responded that the Chair, President, Secretary and Treasurer were roles that were required. Other positions within the committee structure were optional.

Dean Bowman noted that it would be worthwhile looking at this in a different way by outlining the tasks under the four main positions and then mapping out other committee members from there. Simon Middlemas thought this was worthwhile exploring and asked Dean to provide further information.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A04: Dean Bowman to draft a proposal on committee structure.

This topic would be followed up again at the next meeting.

12. SPECIAL ITEM

Simon Middlemas stated that there was a need to appoint a vice-president given that Robert Allan was now permanently housed in Pentland View.

Simon Middlemas proposed that Gus Mackay be approached to take up this role noting that Gus had held a number of Committee positions as well as being past Area Chair. Joe MacNeil seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously that Gus Mackay be approached to ask whether he would take on role of Vice-President.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A05: Simon Middlemas to write to Gus Mackay asking whether he would take on role of Vice-President.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon Middlemas noted that Don Loggie would be leaving the area and Willie Smith had enquired as to whether there would be an event to mark the occasion. It was felt that this was not something that was done for others and therefore the Branch would not be do anything of note.

Dean Bowman noted that he would be shortly going on holiday but once he had returned he would be starting to make arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

There being no further business, Simon Middlemas thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

S R Middlemas
Chair, RBL Branch Committee
29 July 2022

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A01: Ron Galloway to finalise list of electronic addresses for both Branch and Club members.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A02: Simon Middlemas and Zena Latcham to get together to update welfare website pages.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A03: Zena Latcham to speak with Donald Sinclair about getting content on Facebook that could drive people to website welfare pages.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A04: Dean Bowman to draft a proposal on committee structure.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A05: Simon Middlemas to write to Gus Mackay asking whether he would take on role of Vice-President.

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A01: Joe McNeil and Ron Galloway to order up poppies, wreaths and badges. **Action complete:** This as now in hand.

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A02: Zena Latcham to provide information for website update on welfare pages. **Action complete** – see discussion under Welfare section (agenda item 9)

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A03: Simon Middlemas to order up some bunting for Jubilee celebration. **Action complete.**

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A04: Zena Latcham and Albert McIvor to organise jointly a snooker competition. **Action complete:** overtaken by events (new league set up).