

Minutes of The Royal British Legion Scotland, Thurso Branch Committee meeting held in the Clubrooms, Riverside Road on Thursday 24 November 2022

Present:	Simon Middlemas	Chair
	Gus Mackay	Vice President
	Joe McNeil	
	John Blake	
	Ron Galloway	
	Dean Bowman	
	Robert Gray	
	Albert McIvor	
	Mac MacGill (Guest)	
	Roy Kirk (Guest)	

Apologies:	Alex Mathers
	Tim Hooper
	Karin Freeman
	Zena Latcham

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Simon Middlemas, Chair, welcomed those present. He introduced Roy Kirk and Mac MacGill, two guests invited to the meeting with a view to possibly joining the Committee in the future, and facilitated the introductions.

2. SILENT TRIBUTE

Simon Middlemas led the silent tribute.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Simon Middlemas explained the relationships between the Branch and Club for our two guests, with the Branch being more aligned to RBL Headquarters, and whose main purpose is the charity side and Remembrance activities. The Club, he explained, supports the Branch but is basically a standalone commercial enterprise.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Branch meeting, RBL-TBC(2022)M04, held in the Clubrooms on Thursday 29 September 2022 had been circulated in advance to members. These were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. The minutes were proposed by Albert McIvor and seconded by Dean Bowman.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

5. STATUS OF ACTIONS

See Appendix.

6. BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe McNeil noted the following:

- Bank account currently sat at £11,714.75.
- Most of the recent activity was concerned with the Remembrance activities.
- Membership renewal income has been coming in steadily.

The costs for the Remembrance day complimentary drinks and refreshments were split equally between the Branch and Club accounts as agreed.

7. ANGLING CONVENOR'S REPORT

John Blake noted that:

- The Angling Section held their AGM and presentation of trophies meeting but it was poorly attended, with no changes to the Committee positions. He stated the Angling Section had 42 members during the 2022 season.
- Work has begun in the Sea Cadet Hall on the refurbishment of the boats now that they have all been taken ashore.
- Take up on the activities had been reasonable throughout the season.
- The winter sea angling trips have begun but, as always, are very weather dependent.

8. WELFARE REPORT

Zena Latcham was absent from the meeting so unable to provide an update. Simon explained to our guests that the Welfare side is usually very quiet with little input required although a few initiatives have been attempted with little effect or attendance. However, we continue to promote our Welfare offering and stand ready to assist at any time if required.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A01: Simon Middlemas to explore Fares4Free website in relation to supporting veterans. Website link [HOME \(fares4free.org\)](https://www.fares4free.org)

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Middlemas noted that the website was now up to date. The entertainment section now pointed to Facebook for current up-to-date information and is now reinforced by the new information TV screen installed outside the Bar door facing members and guests on entry to the premises.

10. BRANCH AND CLUB COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Simon has produced a sheet highlighting the Branch and Club Committee positions, with unfilled positions in red which he will send out to the Committee members and guests in due course, with the hope of some of the unfilled posts being taken up. Simon also suggested slight changes to Committee positions and these recommendations will be included in the sheet when sent out. All members were also asked to identify other suitable candidates if possible.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M05/A01: Simon to send out sheet highlighting Committee positions and recommendations to members and guests.

11. UPDATE ON REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITIES

Dean Bowman reported that the Remembrance activities listed below all took place successfully and he thanked everyone involved for their input and attendance.

- 11th November: Armistice Day – school services with Rev David Malcolm
- 12th November: War Graves service
- 13th November: Remembrance Sunday

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A02: June Love to identify Police Scotland contact for Remembrance Sunday arrangements. Complete.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Treasurer reported that our accountants now have our financial books to produce the annual Branch and Club accounts.

Due to personnel changes they have requested that we delay our Branch and Club AGM's from their normal December date into early next year. The RBL Handbook and Constitution state that the Branch AGM should be completed by 21st January so a provisional date of Thursday 19th January is proposed and will be confirmed in due course.

S R Middlemas
Chair, RBL Branch Committee
04 December 2022

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M05/A01: Simon to send out sheet highlighting Committee positions and recommendations to members and guests.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A01: Simon Middlemas to explore Fares4Free website in relation to supporting veterans. Website link [HOME \(fares4free.org\)](http://fares4free.org)

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

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A04: Dean Bowman to draft a proposal on committee structure. **Action ongoing, see RBL-TBC(2022)M05/A01 above.**

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A01: Ron Galloway to finalise list of electronic addresses for both Branch and Club members. **Action complete:** The electronic list was now populated with over 300 contact details.

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. **Action complete.**

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

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A02: June Love to identify Police Scotland contact for Remembrance Sunday arrangements. **Action complete.**

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A03: Ron Galloway to put up poppy collection schedule in office for members to populate with their availability. **Action complete.**