

## ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION – PORTLAND BRANCH

### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2017

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 2004. 42 members attended.

Apologies were received from 17 members.

#### CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman said 3 Standards were paraded at Karen's funeral, (Ben, Alf and Dennis). He would like to thank all the pall-bearers, Peter Foster, Dave Prowse, Alex Oswald, Dave Thompson, Dave McCaughey and Jeff Jowett. There were lots of family and many friends and shipmates. It made the service a very special occasion for a very special person.

Regarding my relief. I have resigned – myself to remaining in post until the AGM next year. There has been one volunteer. We discussed his offer and agreed that although well-meant I did not think it fair on him (Alex) to step forward when he has only recently completed 6 years in the chair. He offered his services in the best interest of the Branch.

Fund raising at Portland and Southwell Street fairs raised around £300 so we look forward to next year. Support will be needed. Thanks to Ben and Pete for helping out.

Guest of Honour for the Annual Dinner. The Committee discussed this matter and I took an action to invite our first choice –Councillor Sandy West. I contacted Sandy by Email and am very pleased to say she has accepted. I am sure she will keep us entertained on the evening.

An invitation has been sent to South Dorset Wrens Association on the occasion of their 100th anniversary, to attend the evening social following the Area Meeting on the 16th. The Secretary of the WRNS Association is gauging interest from among their ranks. We need the numbers to boost those from the Area and our own Branch. So come and support your hard working team on the 16th.

SS Avalanche Memorial Service at St Andrews Church on the 10th September. 1430-1530. Your stalwart gang of attendees will be in London for the RNA Biennial Parade so it would be appreciated if someone could report on this event and also support it.

Tuck Shop, following a RAS Solids we now have Toffees and Mints at £1 and of course the new RNA Poppy pins excellent value at £2. Please support the Branch.

Alf Larkin has agreed to do up spirits (tot time) in the Conservative Club following this year's Remembrance Sunday parade.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – were read and accepted. Proposed by S/M Mick Maynard seconded by S/M Stan Halliwell. 40 for with 2 abstentions. There were no matters arising.

#### SECRETARIES REMARKS & CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card from Micky Fox.

Diary List is on the notice-board.

#### WELFARE REPORT

S/M John Jeffries has been back in hospital and is now out.

S/M Charles H Thompson has eye problems and is not very well.

S/M Pat Hudson thanked members for all their best wishes.

#### LIAISON OFFICER

Nil report

#### PRO

S/M Maureen Sherren said she would like to thank S/M Rob Roy for the donation of £14, he overpaid his membership renewal and donated it to RNA Funds. It is proposed to add the donation to the fund raising pot.

New Joiners. Charlie Flack. He is at a council meeting tonight but may be able to get here later.

Charlie is a former CPOMA with 22 years service and now Portland's Deputy Mayor who accompanied by his wife Maria will be doing the honours for us at the Area Meeting on the 16th September due to or mayor David Thurston still on light duties.

Grant Baker - Full.

#### STANDARD BEARERS REPORT

S/M Cartwright said the Standard has been paraded 5 times since the last meeting.

On Sunday 6th August it was paraded at St Georges Church, Reforne at one of the two Services held each year. I was accompanied by S/M Lynwood Newman of the Weymouth Branch.

On Sunday 13th August the Standard was paraded by our Chairman Dan at a Service to mark the 100th anniversary of the awarding of the VC to CPO Ernest Pitcher. I was carrying the Area Standard. The service was well attended with several descendants of CPO Pitcher present. On completion of the Church Service we moved to the Northbrook Cemetery where Ernest is interred and paid our respects to him and to other War Commission Graves, in particular Boy Seaman 1st Class Coffin and Stoker 1st class Taylor. We were accompanied by our wives and were joined by Carol and Vaughan Nelson.

O the 31st August there was a very good turnout at the Crematorium for the celebration of Karen Young's life. Thank you to all attendees and in particular to those who acted as pall-bearers.

Last weekend saw me busy on both the Saturday and Sunday with attendances at the Merchant Navy Memorials in Weymouth and here on Portland. Thanks to Dan and Alf for their support at St Georges Church on Sunday.

#### TREASURERS REPORT

S/M Shoemith read out the Branch Account which stands at £2692-62. The report was accepted. Proposed by S/M Dave Thompaon seconded by S/M Dave McCaughey. 40 for with 2 abstentions. The Raffle raised £50 with donations of £11 to our Branch Charity. There were no matters arising. He expressed thanks to Dan & Maureen for their fund raising efforts.

#### WEBMASTERS REPORT

S/M Maureen Sherren read S/M Gray's report.

The Website is cruising along smoothly, no ripples. Continues to be updated with new diary events and news as required.

Project Semaphore – He met Sarah Clewes at Dorchester RNA recently. She will be doing another short training session for volunteers in Dorchester on Wednesday 13th September. He will attend. Any others whom might like to be volunteers are welcome. He now has the Branch's first iPad. We have 1 potential volunteer. We are still actively looking for others. Many thanks to Maureen for helping us to secure a very suitable training venue at Pilgrim House for volunteer training (1 day) by Sarah's team in late September or early October. We are inviting Dorchester, Weymouth and Bridport to join us. This will please Sarah as she has been struggling to find venues in the South.

To further the project he plans to bring the Branch iPad along to future meetings to demonstrate. A Wi-Fi range extender has been purchased from Argos to enable us to get Wi-Fi coverage in the Manor bar. It worked last week, so well in fact that I bought one for our house.

#### SOCIAL REPORT

Cricket Nat West T20 Blast at the Ageas Bowl, on Friday 4th August was a good evening. Thanks to Vaughan for booking and driving the minibus.

The trip to Buckham Fair Sunday 20th August 2017 was an enjoyable day apart from the weather. We adjourned to the beer tent when the heavens opened.

No 4 Area Meeting Saturday 16th September 2017 in the Conservative Club. Social in the evening. Cost £10 per person. Wrapped raffle prizes appreciated. Entertainer Mike Walker. Only 32 names on the list so far.

Away weekend to the Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne Friday 6th to Monday 9th October 2017. 49 confirmed and paid in full. The cheques will be sent to Shearings and South West Coaches soon.

Christmas Social Friday 15th December 2017 in the Jubilee Hall. Entertainer B J McCabe.

Annual Dinner 28th April 2018 at the Masonic Hall. Victoria Square.

Other Social Events for 2018. Must plan soon. Ideas welcome. Suggestions so far include Tarrant Steam Fair in August, Bournemouth Theatre Trip, Great Dorset Steam Fair.

#### AREA MEETING 16th SEPTEMBER

S/M Shoemith said help is required setting up on the Friday evening. It would be nice if members can come and welcome our visiting members on Saturday. Support required for the Social in the evening.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

S/M Copus said he was very impressed with the pall-bearers at Karen's funeral.

S/M Oswald said he saw Shenna & Kingsley Bennett when he was up in Scotland and they send their best wishes.

S/M Shoemith said the Area Reunion Rally deposit of £20 required next month.

Next Meeting Wednesday 4th October 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2131.

.....Chairman

.....Hon Sec