



**Minutes of**  
**RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The meeting was opened by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller at 20.00. 29 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 5 Members.

2. **Chairman's Opening Comments:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He welcomed new Members Helena Berry and Pete Foster Snr.

Events happening on this date include:

1909 - 116 years of Naval Aviation, when No 1 Rigid Naval Airship was ordered – 'The Mayfly.'

1947 – 705 NAS was formed; the Navy's all helicopter squadron.

1955 – Royal Marines received the Honorary Freedom of Plymouth.

S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the April General Meeting and the Monthly Newsletter.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** were accepted.

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Ian Tate

Seconded by S/M Lynne Rimell

For: 27

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

4. **Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence:**

Email from Kate Aldous, Governance Support Officer, Central Office, ref Form 1 Branch Officials, Form 2 Branch Financial Report and Form 5 Branch Activities Form. All have now been accepted.

Email from Ferndown Branch ref Crossing The Bar of Chairman and Vice President Gareth Peaston. Reply sent to Ferndown Secretary by S/M Peter Shoesmith on behalf of Portland Branch.

Email from Dauntless Divisional Photography Project (DDP) ref Rebuilding WRNS History 1946-1981.

Note from S/M Gill Essom ref Presentation by Mark Trasler about HMS Uganda at 19.00 on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Mark lives in Haslar Complex and is part of Haslar Preservation Group.

Email from Portland Town Council, ref VE Day 80 Information for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This includes:

09.00 VE Day flag raised in Victoria Square followed by the Proclamation at the American Memorial in Victoria Gardens.

16.00 Service at the Cenotaph led by Rev Tim Gomm followed by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

18.30 Ringing of the Bells at St George's Church, All Saints' Church and St John's Church.

20.00 Weymouth Concert Brass at New Ground.

21.30 Beacon Lighting.

Matters Arising:

## 5. Items discussed at Committee Meeting

Invitation to join Portland VE Day Celebration – S/M Christine Tuck.

After a second invitation for the Branch was received, S/M Christine probed further as to requirements for the Branch on the day. The organisers would like Branch Members to march from the Cenotaph after the Service, across to the event at the Market Ground. They will be accompanying the D-Day Centre vehicles. Horses from the Chesil Equestrian Centre will also join the procession. A moment of silence will be held to coincide with the ringing of the Portland Church bells. The Branch Standard will be at the event. Finally, the organisers asked if Members would be willing to share their stories. The Committee did not think that this would be so forthcoming, but all the above will be added to the Facebook page and our Website.

Matters Arising

S/M Dusty reported that the role of the RNA at the VE Day 80 Celebration seems to have changed on the latest Facebook post. From accompanying the D-Day vehicles and horses from Chesil Equestrian Centre, we now seem to be parading alone. After discussion with Branch Members present, it was decided to inform the organisers that there would not be enough Members who would be able to do the march. S/M Christine sent an email to this effect.

## 6. Reports:

- a. Standard Bearer's/Ceremonial Report – S/M Ben Cartwright sent in a report:

S/M Ben took the Standard to the ANZAC Day Memorial Service held on Weymouth Esplanade on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The ANZAC Band played a piece of music composed especially by one of the band, entitled One Hundred Years of Weymouth. There were 8 other Standards present and a fair-sized congregation.

Diary events include:

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	Time	EVENT
Thursday	8 May	Victoria Gardens Cenotaph	0900 1600 o/c o/c 1830	Proclamation Memorial Service Signing of Armed Forces Covenant March to Market Ground Silence to coincide with Ringing of the Church Bells
		New Ground	2130	Beacon Lighting/Brass Band
Monday	26 May	US Memorial Weymouth	1100	US Memorial Day Service
Friday	6 June	Victoria Gardens	1100	Portland D Day Service
Friday	20 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Esplanade		Military Vehicle display; music from the 40's and information stands
Saturday	21 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Esplanade		Entertainment at the Jubilee Clock
Sunday	22 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Astrid Way	1000 1030 1100 o/c	Esplanade closed to traffic Muster Service at War Memorial Veterans Parade to the Pavilion
Week End	22-28 June	Weymouth		Armed Forces Week
Monday	23 June	Victoria Square and gardens	1000	Armed Forces Flag Raising
Friday	15 August	All Saints Church	TBA	VJ Service
Saturday	16 August	Nothe Fort	All day	VJ picnic and concert. Take your own food
Wednesday	3 September	St Georges Church	TBA	Merchant Navy Day Service
Sunday	9 November	Drill Hall Cenotaph	1000 1030 for 1100 1230	March to Cenotaph Remembrance Sunday US Memorial
Tuesday	11 November	Cenotaph	1045 for 1100	Armistice Day
				Sidon
				Illustrious

b. **Social Secretary's Report** – S/M Dave Prowse reported:

Annual Dinner– Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April was an enjoyable evening with 50 attending. Thanks for the positive comments on our Facebook page. As always, thanks to all those who helped and everyone who supported the event.

Skittles at Dorchester – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 19.00 for 19.30, in the Trinity Club with Dorchester and other branches. S/M Ben has booked the ICA minibus. 13 names on the list. Raffle prizes would be appreciated.

20/20 Cricket at Southampton. S/M Ben has booked the ICA minibus for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. It is a double header with Hampshire Women v Bears at 11.00 and Hampshire Men v Sussex at 15.00. Early bird tickets have been purchased at £18.00 per person, (which includes a discount of £2.00 per person for a group of 6-11). Two additional tickets have been purchased as there are now 11 going.

Away Weekend – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 8th October at the Imperial Hotel, Eastbourne. 35 on the list and all have paid the interim deposit of £30.00 per person. The balance is required by the August Meeting. Payments can be made at each meeting. You are advised to arrange travel insurance. We still have an option on two more twin rooms if anyone else would like to go.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – Saturday 18th October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainment is Steve Williams Disco.

Christmas Social – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainer is Georgy Broad.

c. **HMS Portland Liaison Officer Report** – S/M Nigel Rimell reported:

Nil report.

d. **Fundraising Report** - S/M Karen Miller reported:

S/M Karen reported that our stall at the Bash, now renamed the Love Portland Festival, will happen. It will have books, jigsaws and a children's tombola. This will help boost the Branch's charity.

e. **Membership Secretary's Report** – S/M Karen Miller reported:

Two new Members have joined the Branch and we now have 94 Members.

f. **National Area/Conference Report** – S/M Pete Shoemith sent in a report:

The next Area Meeting is on May 17<sup>th</sup> at St Austell. S/Ms Pete, Ben and David White will attend.



**8. AOB**

S/M Nige reported that the Skittles season has now finished. The Branch team won their last two games. They have raised around £90 in Bolters Money. The next season starts in September.

**9. Chairman's Closing Comments:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting, which was short and sweet, especially with half the Committee away! He hoped to see Members at the Cenotaph tomorrow for the VE Day 80 Service.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

11. **Meeting Closed at:** 21.20

Chairman .....

Secretary .....