



Minutes of
RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre
Wednesday 6th August 2025

The meeting was opened by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller at 20.05. 34 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 12 Members.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He asked that everyone be upstanding for S/M Pete Foster (Snr), one of our new Members, who Crossed The Bar recently. Also for Mrs Pauline Isaac, widow of S/M Jan Isaac, who also passed away. S/M Pete Foster's funeral will take place on Monday 1st September at 14.30 at Weymouth Crematorium, with a celebration of Pete's life at the Rembrandt Hotel afterwards. Anyone who is free on that day is welcomed to come along and support S/M Gill, who herself has supported many Members over the years and now needs our support. Please pass your names to me and I will let Gill know for catering numbers.

Thanks to S/M Bob for the two reports in the Free Portland News – presentation of the cheque to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and the HMS Foylebank Memorial. Thanks also to S/M Dave for arranging the Branch visit to the cricket at the Utilita Bowl, which was a good day out. Also to S/M Karen for organising our stall at the Love Portland Festival.

Finally – a warm welcome to our newest Member, S/M Roger Fullbrook, a Full Member.

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

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

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Ginge Sarsfield

Seconded by S/M Ian Tate

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

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

Letter from Sarah Davies, Finance Manager, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, ref Thank you for Area 4 Donation of £1000.

Email from The Seafarers' Charity, ref Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September 2025.

Thank you card from S/M Arthur Copus, ref visit from S/Ms Gill and Lin, Welfare & Wellbeing Officers.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. **Items discussed at Committee Meeting** -Nil

6. **Reports:**

a. **Standard Bearer's/Ceremonial Report** – S/M Ben Cartwright reported:

S/M Ben thanked all Members who attended the HMS Foylebank Service on 4th July at the Memorial near the Heights Hotel.

If anyone is available to carry the Branch Standard at the VJ day Service on 15th July, please let S/M Ben know. He is unavailable on that day.

Diary events include:

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	Time	EVENT
Friday	15 August	All Saints Church	1600	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 for1100	Armistice Day
				Illustrious

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

20/20 Cricket at Southampton on Sunday 13th July was a great day out.

Away Weekend – Saturday 4th to Wednesday 8th October at the Imperial Hotel, Eastbourne. If there are no changes to the list of 35, the approximate cost is £284 per person (£568.00 per couple). The balance is required tonight or in the next week as the total has to be paid to Daish's and forms completed about who is attending, coach pick ups, rooming lists and seating plans. You are advised to arrange travel insurance.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – Saturday 18th October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainment is Steve Williams Disco. The price is held at £27.50 per person. The list is here tonight so please add your names. The menu will be published shortly on our Facebook page.

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

Annual Dinner 2026 – Saturday 18th April in the Masonic Centre Main Hall.

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

Nil report.

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

Thanks to all those who donated books, jigsaws and items for the children's tombola for our stall at the Love Portland Festival. Thanks also to those who helped set up – S/Ms Dusty, Ben, Lin and especially Mike Howard who stayed all day. Also S/Ms Christine and Kevin who helped out. £147.10 was raised. This will be the last time that S/M Karen runs the stall as she has taken the helm for three years now and it's time for someone else to have a go.

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

Welcome to our new Member, S/M Roger Fullbrook, a Full Member, who is here tonight.

f. **National Area/Conference Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

S/M Pete reported that it had been a quiet month as unfortunately S/M Chris Hore who runs the Area Website has been ill and S/M Alan Cox, the Area Secretary, has had computer issues. Thanks to S/M Bob for putting news out about the Branch in the Free Portland News, Dorset Echo and the Navy News.

The next Area Meeting is on 13th September in Saltash. S/Ms Pete, Ben and David White will be attending.

g. **Webmasters Report** – rnaportland.org S/M Bob Featherstone reported:

As some of you will know, the Branch Website went AWOL last week! For some reason, which is unknown, it was the target of a hack. It is now back in place but required some work to restore the Home page fully, which is ongoing.

We also made the news in the July Semaphore Circular with photo and news of the cheque presentation to the Air Ambulance.

h. **Wellbeing Report** – S/M Lin MacCormack reported:

S/M Gill is OK but very sad after the loss of S/M Pete Foster (Snr).

S/M Bill Gear is here tonight, which is nice to see him back.

S/Ms Gill and Lin visited S/M Arthur Copus and he seemed much better.

i. **Treasurer's Report** – S/M Pete Shoemith reported:

The Branch Account stands at £4888.42

The Social Fund stands at £510.19.

The Annual Charity Fund (Island Leg Club) stands at £128.75 (after 4 months)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M Dickie Bird Seconded by: S/M Doc Foster

For: 34 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

7. **Any Other Voting Items :**

Proposed by: Seconded by:

For: Against: Abstentions:

8. **AOB** -Nil

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting. He reminded everyone of the funeral on Monday 1st September.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

11. **Meeting Closed at:** 21.05

Chairman

Secretary