

**MINUTES OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND WPC MEETING HELD AT
COMBAT STRESS, HOLLYBUSH HOUSE, HOLLYBUSH BY AYR ON 21ST
NOVEMBER 2007.**

PRESENT:

**Derek Evans (Chairman)
Manager)
Barry Acons
Ken McLachlan
John Porter
David McAllister
Kate Nicol
Anthony Herdman
Robert Kemp
Garry Walker
David McSween
Peter Tuckfield
Peter Newlove**

IN ATTENDANCE:

**Irene Robinson (Welfare
John Costello (Committee Clerk)**

1. Opening Announcements & Welcome

DE extended a warm welcome to all new members on to the committee following the recent Reconstitution exercise.

He then gave an overview on the purpose of Reconstitution for the benefit of the new members and how he sees the committee progressing as a whole within the next 12 months and beyond. DE informed the committee that he intends to vacate his position as chairman with about 6-9 months left of his current appointment.

He briefly spoke on how successful recruitment had gone and the reasons as to why the exercise was necessary namely the sad death of Scott Gillon, the resignation of Dougie Moir and that others were on their last appointment as members and they are unable to continue due to regulations.

The duties expected of the committee were explained in detail and the chairman then informed the members that he was tasked with notifying the applicants who were not successful in obtaining places on the committee.

DE requested JC to arrange with Sandra Lloyd for the distribution of new badges and ID cards.

AP 11/O1:JC to advise WPC Focal Point of the new members elected for the purpose of ID Cards/Badges.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Apologies received from Patrick Reid, Sheena Glass & Alistair Marshall.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Agreed by DE and seconded by KN with no amendments.

4. Matters Arising

Action points from the last meeting:

AP 05.1 –Sandra Lloyd to look into funding trips for pensioners/widows –ONGOING

AP 05.3-Irene Robinson to resolve the reporting chain post visit with DE-
COMPLETE

AP 05.4-Vulnerable Service Leavers and the problem with them receiving large sums of money direct and then becoming charity cases-ONGOING as long as the AFCS continues in its current format.

AP 08.1-Recruitment Adverts & Application Forms to be issued with minutes of the meeting-COMplete

Postcodes

DE asked that following the reorganisation of the postcode areas between Glasgow VWS and Edinburgh VWS offices, can his members be issued with up to date lists which will be benefit members when appropriate cases come up for visiting.

AP 11/02: New Postcodes Lists to be issued to Members.

Panel Cases

DE had two cases on the go, unfortunately one was cancelled due to the person involved moving address and the second was cancelled by the chairman due to the person's irrational behaviour.

WPC Leaflet

For the benefit of the new members, DE confirmed that there is a new A5 size leaflet available detailing the work of the WPC's and the contact numbers of the chairmen and clerks around the country.

Glasgow VWS

DE gave a brief talk on the excellent relationship his committee has with the staff in Glasgow and he highlighted some of the problems other committees are having with their respective VWS offices around the country.

Monitoring

DE discussed visiting with staff from the Veterans Welfare Service and on a solo basis for the benefit of new members plus he quoted the number of cases that his members are prepared to do. BA asked if now that the committee membership had increased would this mean an increase in the number of cases that members can do.

Veterans Badge

DE pointed out that anyone who has served in the forces for even one day is eligible to apply for a badge.

Publicity

The chairman spoke briefly about the work done in the past by Dougie Moir, John Porter and the late Scott Gillon. The fact that new casework was generated as a result shows just how much time and effort was put into advertising the role of the WPC.

DE spoke briefly about Dougie Moir's role in publicising the WPC and how much his work was appreciated. Dougie was asked to continue in this capacity but to no avail and as a result DE is hopeful that by the time of the next meeting in February 2008, a new publicity committee will have been formed again consisting of three people.

New Cases for Visiting

Members were encouraged to attract as many new cases for visiting as possible since there has been a significant increase in membership.

Free Tickets

DE asked if any members are able to access tickets for events which maybe of interest to pensioners and widows please let the committee know at the earliest opportunity.

Selly Oak

DE spoke about the information and services plus the level of care provided to all servicemen and women who have been injured in conflict, by the staff at Selly Oak.

NHS hospitals have been used to ease the burden on Selly Oak and IR briefly spoke about a case she knows of, that following excellent care and treatment, this person was being housed.

A short discussion on the re-opening of military hospitals ensued and KN mentioned in particular, the Royal Naval hospital at Hasler in Portsmouth which is earmarked for possible closure, she asked if the committee were in a position to get involved in the prevention of such a course of action.

AP 11/03: Copy of visiting protocol to be issued to members.

5. Correspondence

DE has received replies from various NHS Chairmen within the West of Scotland in response to his request as to what services are available to ex-service personnel with psychological trauma.

The replies received to date have been pretty positive and DE mentioned in particular the reply from NHS Lanarkshire which assured the committee that their staff will be aware of their responsibilities to the ex-service community with regards to the kind of treatment they receive.

KN asked if the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow had responded to the committee as to where they stand on this matter as she was interested to know what their attitude was to these cases.

PN confirmed to the chairman that Mr Patrick Reid had received his letter from Minister confirming his post as a WPC member.

6. Committee Chairman's Report

Accompanied Visits

DE confirmed that IR had asked him to do an accompanied visit but had to decline as the date clashed with a prior engagement although he hopes to have another chance to visit in the not too distant future.

AP 11/04: Copy of WM's protocol ref: WPC Monitoring to be issued.

Tim Taylor

Invites have been issued by TT to the Chief Executive's function which is to be held in the Royal Scots club in Edinburgh on 13th December 2007.

DE requested that his best wishes and that of the committee be sent to TT as he is currently on sick leave and has been for sometime.

Inheritance Tax

DE explained to the committee the circumstances when Inheritance Tax is payable or non-payable on a deceased person's estate who is killed whilst in service.

AFCS

There is to be a review of the level of payments and how they are awarded following the outcome of the Ben Paterson case.

War Widows Pension/War Disablement Pension

The chairman spoke to the committee about a personal case which highlighted anomalies that are involved and can have a significant bearing on the outcome e.g time limits.

AFCS/Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

DE gave a brief overview of the differences involved in both schemes particularly for the benefit of the new members.

This subject was discussed by the various committee chairmen at their meeting held in Norcross back in September when they were asked to comment.

Military Covenant

A copy of this document was brought to the attention of the committee by DE and a short discussion ensued. Members will receive a copy along with the minutes of the meeting.

AP 11/05: KN to remove address from the Xmas poem that was circulated at the meeting and e-mailed to JC for distribution to members.

7. WM's Report

IR extended a warm welcome to the new committee members on behalf of the Glasgow Veterans Welfare Service and looked forward to working with them in the future.

A copy of the quarterly report detailing activities carried out by the VWS was issued to each member.

8. Sub-Committee (Publicity & Social)

GW was invited to give a talk on the work carried out by the staff at Hollybush House and the development of a new annexe which will contain between 25 to 30 beds.

He advised the members that this new development may lead to an increase in referrals and that the staff would like to make people aware that Hollybush is a place of respite rather than treatment.

GW discussed various subjects e.g the cost of treatment for each veteran who attends Hollybush, advertising the services of Combat Stress, various illnesses that are assoc. with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

JP recommended that all GP's should receive some form of training in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

9. Any Other Business

AH wished to make the members aware that the new Erskine Home which was previously Flanders House is now open for business.

RK said that the RAF Benevolent Fund is currently making substantial donations to Citizen's Advice Bureau's which are located close to RAF Bases and ex-service personnel are benefitting as a result.

JP suggested that local radio stations be contacted with a view to advertising the services of the War Pensions Committee and the expertise that is contained within it.

KMc mentioned again about the possibility of the SPVA having a stand at the KOSB gathering on 6/3/08 in Dumfries which will involve personnel from SSAFA.

Veterans UK website was pointed out as a useful source of information for new WPC members as well as existing ones.

KN has requested members to e-mail her with a personal profile each so that the WPC website for the West of Scotland can be updated.

A profile of each member listing name, phone numbers, e-mail address and fax if applicable is to be made available within the committee for the benefit of new members.

10. Dates of meetings for 2008

13 th February	Glasgow
7 th May	TBA
13 th August	TBA
12 th November	TBA

The meeting closed at approx. 2.40pm

**ACTION POINTS FROM THE WEST OF SCOTLAND WPC MEETING
HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2007.**

AP 11/01-JC TO ADVISE WPC FOCAL POINT OF THE NEW MEMBERS
ELECTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ID CARDS/BADGES.

AP 11/02- NEW POSTCODE LISTS TO BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS.

AP 11/03- COPY OF VISITING PROTOCOL TO BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS.

AP 11/04- COPY OF WM'S PROTOCOL REF: WPC MONITORING TO BE
ISSUED WHEN AVAILABLE.

AP 11/05- KN TO REMOVE ADDRESS FROM THE XMAS POEM
CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING AND E-MAILED TO JC FOR
DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS.