



VETERANS FOR PEACE UK POLICY GROUP REPORT
SUNDAY 21 JANUARY 2018

Membership	576
Finance	PayPal: £1,188.29 Bank: £2,104.39 Total: £3292.68

Vital Information

Proof of Service: There are still a large number of members who have not provided proof of service.

Members are asked to send this in as soon as possible to our membership secretary Kathryn Piquette (membership@vfpuk.org).

A photo (jpeg, png or pdf) of an official military document belonging to you is adequate.

British veterans can request proof of military service by calling:

British Army: 0345 600 9663

Royal Navy & Royal Marines: 0239 262 8672

RAF: 0140 026 8167

Attendees:

Danny Beever
John Bourton
Phillip Clarke
Ben Griffin
Kathryn Piquette

Statement of Purpose:

Read by John Bourton.

Agenda:

1. Situation reports
2. Media strategy
3. Policy Group tasks and responsibilities
4. Priority campaign
5. Upcoming activity

AOB

1. Situation reports:

1.1. Chair

Phillip Clarke is the chair of the VFP UK Policy Group (chair@vfpuk.org).

Phillip was recently appointed to this role, nothing to report.

1.2. National Coordinator

Ben Griffin is the national coordinator of VFP UK (coord@vfpuk.org).

The rollout of the re-structure of VFP UK into regional groups is progressing smoothly. We have regional coordinators for 7 of the 10 groups (east and west midlands are operating as one region until further notice).

We are looking for regional coordinators for Wales, Scotland and Abroad. Anyone interested should get in touch with Ben Griffin. Adrienne Kinne has been penciled in to coordinate the Abroad group when she arrives in the UK later this year.

Ben has been holding one to one meetings with Policy Group members to handover work that falls under their responsibility.

Ben is aware of the upcoming new EU data laws. Our Google and MailChimp accounts are already compliant.

Action: Ben will ensure that our website is also complaint.

1.3. Membership

Kathryn Piquette is the membership secretary of VFP UK (membership@vfpuk.org).

At present there are three VFP UK membership lists:

Within our Google account is a list of every person who has ever joined VFP UK minus those who have specifically asked to be removed. The membership number on this list stands at $597 - 21 = 576$ members.

Within our Mailchimp account is a list of every person who has ever joined VFP UK minus those who have specifically asked to be removed and minus those who have unsubscribed from our email list. The membership on this list stands at 500 members.

Within our Google account we are populating a new membership spreadsheet. All members who have joined after 1 January 2018 have been automatically added to this. An email will be going out to all members with a link to update your details which will also add you to the spreadsheet.

By the AGM 2018 the spreadsheet will be the official record of membership.

1.4. Finance

John Bourton is the treasurer of VFP UK (accounts@vfpuk.org).

Action: John will put in place a written procedure for maintaining the integrity of VFP UK finances. This will be done in consultation with our bookkeeper Norman Lynch and our national coordinator Ben Griffin. More information will be published after the next Policy Group meeting.

1.5. Shop

Ben Griffin is responsible for the VFP UK online shop (store@vfpuk.org).

New stock will be ordered as we sell our current stock and will be available through our online shop (<http://vfpuk.org/shop/>).

VFP UK flyers, postcards and printed copies of the handbook will be available from regional coordinators at monthly meetings.

1.6. Research Group

Phillip Clarke is coordinator of the VFP UK Research Group (research@vfpuk.org).

Articles and objects have been placed with our archive at the [Bishopsgate Institute](#).

Phillip outlined a project to record the experience of VFP members for use on our website and as an archive. Mic Dixon may be able to submit unused footage from War School.

1.7. Regional Groups

Regional groups are encouraged to submit upcoming activity and reports via our online forms (<http://vfpuk.org/contact/>).

This information can then be posted on our website and social media.

2. Media strategy:

An update was given to the new members of the Policy Group on our current media strategy and its assessed effect.

Ben Griffin has built a comprehensive email list of media contacts and has developed relationships with trustworthy journalists.

A procedure is already in place on our social media accounts for members to report posts or comments that may contravene our handbook to an admin.

There is a form on the contacts page our website for requesting a VFP speaker (<http://vfpuk.org/contact/>).

Mic Dixon has filmed VFP UK members over the last two years and the footage is being used for the documentary [War School](#). The Policy Group has now seen a rough cut of the film and there are no concerns about the content or how it is presented.

Action: Regional coordinators will be encouraged to organise cinema screenings of the film in their regions when it is released later in 2018.

3. Policy Group tasks and responsibilities

3.1. Handbook

Considerable changes were made to the Handbook at our 2017 AGM. The Policy Group intends to focus on developing the structure and roles set out in our handbook rather than making further changes to the Handbook.

3.2. Terms of reference

Phillip Clarke and Kathryn Piquette presented a draft terms of reference document for the Policy Group in which procedures that have been developed over the last five years have been written down and clarified. Phillip will seek feedback from Policy Group members to further develop this document.

Action: Each member of the PG will write a job description of their role to be added to the terms of reference.

3.3 Policy Group actions list

Phillip Clarke presented an actions list format that will be adopted by Policy Group.

4. Priority campaign:

The initial work required to set up Neutral Country has been completed. There is a bank account, a website and the various online accounts required for campaigning.

The next stage of development is to produce:

- The baseline argument in written form.
- A stock speech.
- An information leaflet.
- A short video promoting the concept.

Action: In the meantime VFP UK members are asked to continue handing out Neutral Country contact cards and encourage sign ups to the website (<http://neutralcountry.uk/>).

5. Upcoming activity in 2018:

19 May: Levellers Day in Burford

(TBC Chris Paling midlands@vfpuk.org).

30 June: Armed Forces Day in Blackpool

(Ian Johnstone northwest@vfpuk.org).

22 to 27 August: VFP National Convention in St Paul, Minnesota, USA

(Ben Griffin coord@vfpuk.org).

24 to 26 August: Summer Camp in Hertfordshire

(Norman Lynch northeast@vfpuk.org).

8 to 11 November: VFP UK Annual Gathering in London

(Danny Beever conference@vfpuk.org).

AOB:

Nothing to report

Next Meeting of the Policy Group:

Sunday 25 March, location to be confirmed.