



VETERANS FOR PEACE UK POLICY GROUP REPORT
SATURDAY 30 JUNE 2018

Membership	Total = 181 Proof of Service = 74
Finance	PayPal: £551.59 Coop Bank: £902.12 Metro Bank: £1202.01 Total: £2655.72

Vital Information <p>Proof of Service: As an ex-services organisation it is vital that all our members provide proof of military service. It is appreciated that it can take time to find or receive a copy from the MOD.</p> <p>The MOD form to request proof of service is attached to this report.</p> <p>Please make every effort to send in a copy of your proof of service to membership@vfpuk.org</p> <p>Only members who have provided proof of service may vote at our Annual General Meeting.</p>
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Attendees:

Danny Beever
Phillip Clarke
Ben Griffin

Apologies:

John Bourton
Kathryn Piquette

Statement of Purpose:

We, veterans of the armed forces having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace.

To this end:

- a. We will work toward increasing public awareness of the costs of war*
- b. We will work to restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations*
- c. We will work to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons*

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans for Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

We urge all veterans who share this vision to join us.

Agenda:

1. Situation reports
2. Priority campaign update
3. Handbook changes
4. Election 2018
5. Upcoming activity

AOB

Allocation of any tasks

1. Situation reports:

1.1 Accounts

1.2 Membership

1.3 Annual Gathering

1.4 National Coordinator

1.5 Chair

1.1 Accounts

John Bourton reported that the accounts will; be ready on time for our Annual Gathering in November.

The financial procedures attached to the last Policy Group report have now been uploaded to the website and can be found here:

<http://vfpuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/VFP-Financial-Procedures-2018.pdf>

1.2 Membership

Kathryn Piquette reported that the checking of proof of service for those who have renewed membership is now complete.

Our current membership stands at 181with proof of service provided by 74. Work is under way to increase submission of proof of service before the AGM in November.

Emails to individual members will be sent out soon.

If you need a copy of proof of service you can download the form from here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/712157/20180530-MOD_SAR_Form_1694.pdf

A hard copy is attached to this report.

1.3 Annual Gathering

There are 43 members registered so far for the Annual Gathering. This is normal for this time of the year.

All venues have been booked except for the cinema to be used on the Thursday night.

A meeting with the police will take place in September, we will ask for access to the main PA system.

A logo for the theme of "1918-2018 Never Again" has been designed and will be used on t-shirts, posters, flyers and a video.

VFP Dale Bowdery is ensuring the production of the wreath which will this year spell out Never Again.

An attempt will be made to get VFP member Neil Harvey a press pass so that he can freely photograph VFP actions without harassment from officials and the police. Ben will speak to a NUJ official for advice and guidance.

1.4 National Coordinator

The Metrobank account is now up and running with only 2 outstanding standing orders to switch from co-op.

Co-op bank account will be closed before next PG meeting.

A reminder will be sent out to ask members to make regular small contributions to our new Metrobank account.

All VFP regions now have a coordinator. Some regions are developing more quickly than others which is to be expected. The coordinator workshop planned for the annual gathering is expected to be well attended. By December our coordinators should be fully up and running in terms of planning, executing and reporting actions autonomously.

Steve Metcalf (Facebook admin) is to become a website editor in order to lighten the workload of the national coordinator.

1.5 Chair

No actual Chair business to report.

Chair is presently also responsible for social media.

Our Twitter account has 3,011 followers.

Our Facebook page has 26,257 followers.

Images and short videos are easily the most popular posts.

It is proposed that we revive our Instagram account.

2. Priority campaign update

The website has been updated with more information.

Regional coordinators and individual members are reporting positive public responses to the idea of the campaign and to the information that has so far been published.

The email address for the campaign, office@neutralcountry.uk is back up following a server switch. Thank you to VFP member Matthew Horne for his ongoing tech support.

The campaign is developing at a slower rate than expected. It is agreed that trying to rush the process is not a prudent course of action. The campaign may not be ready for launch at the AGM.

The money raised from the sale of NC t-shirts will be used to produce 100 pin badges that will be sold to raise further revenue. This money is separate to the main VFP UK fund.

A launch video still needs to be made.

A stock speech still needs to be written.

The development of the "1918-2018 Never Again" short campaign for the Remembrance period will lead into the Neutral Country campaign.

3. Election 2018

Ben Griffin and John Bourton will not be standing for election in 2018. Both have been on the Policy Group for over five years and feel it is the right time to handover. This means we will require a new National Coordinator from November.

Ben and John will continue to be active members of VFP. Ben will also assist with background administration and advice if requested.

It is strongly proposed that the Policy Group election from this year onwards should be for each position on the group. So members will stand to fill a position on the group. Those positions are; Chair, National Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Annual Gathering facilitator.

By doing this members will know what they are expected to do if elected to the group. This will give the member elected legitimacy in that position and the AGM will have a member who can be held directly accountable for each position.

The relevant Handbook changes will be presented at the next PG meeting and put to the membership at the AGM.

4. Handbook changes

The following changes will be written and presented at the next Policy Group meeting:

The Policy Group election will evolve so that each position is elected. Members will stand for a particular position within the group. This way we get the right member for the job and the members can hold that member accountable for the work they stood to carry out.

The Policy Group roles are to be clearly defined in the handbook.

Removal of non-existent components from the structure diagram;

Research Group does not exist,

Policy Group is responsible for ensuring the completion of admin work. There is no need for a separate group within the structure. Those doing admin work report to the relevant member of the PG.

Removal of the National Coordinator from the structure diagram as it is a position within the Policy Group.

These and any other proposed changes submitted before the deadline will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

5. Upcoming activity in 2018:

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

Point of contact: Ben Griffin coord@vfpuk.org

8 to 11 November: VFP UK Annual Gathering in London

Point of Contact: Danny Beever gathering@vfpuk.org

Any Other Business:

Nothing to report

Allocation of any tasks:

Cinema for AG to be booked:

Proof of Service to be chased: Kathryn Piquette

Handbook changes: Ben Griffin

Coop Bank closure: Ben Griffin

Next Meeting of the Policy Group:

September 2018