



VETERANS FOR PEACE UK POLICY GROUP REPORT
SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2018

Membership	Total = 194 Proof of Service = 74
Finance	PayPal: £545.12 Metro Bank Running Costs: £1511.10 Metro Bank Campaign Fund: £341.72 Total: £2397.94

Vital Information

Annual Gathering: Our Annual Gathering is less than two months away. Please consider attending, you can register on our website:

<http://vfpuk.org/upcoming/registration-2018/>

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. You can apply to the MOD here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>

Please make every effort to send in a copy of your proof of service to:

membership@vfpuk.org

Only members who have provided proof of service may vote at our Annual General Meeting.

Attendees:

Danny Beever
Phillip Clarke
Ben Griffin
John Bourton

Apologies:

Kathryn Piquette

Observer:

Adrienne Kinne

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:

01. Statement of Purpose
02. Situation report: Accounts
03. Situation report: Membership
04. Situation report: Annual Gathering/Events
05. Situation report: National Coordinator
06. Situation report: Chair
07. Priority campaign update
08. Handbook changes
09. VFP UK Election 2018
10. Any other business
11. Allocation of any tasks

01. Statement of Purpose

Read by John Bourton

02. Situation report: 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>

A page giving easy access to VFP UK documents will be added to the website.

The following is a list of estimated liabilities and credits that will result from the Annual Gathering:

AG Liabilities

Accommodation for foreign veteran guests £440

Cinema £500

Hostel £600

Tea and Coffee £200

Band Night £250

Marquis Deposit £100

Leaflets £150

AG Credits

Never Again clothing £500

Cash donations at the Band Night £100

Raffle for running costs £100

Website donations £200

VFP UK do not charge a membership subscription, we rely on and encourage members to make small regular voluntary donations via standing order or Paypal.

03. Situation report: Membership

Our membership stands at 194. An accurate figure for the number of Proofs of Service (PoS) submitted will be ready for the AGM.

All regional coordinators please encourage members to submit their PoS.

04. Situation report: Annual Gathering/Events

46 people have registered for the Annual Gathering so far.

The full programme has been published on the website, there will be some minor changes in timings and line up that will be published and shared.

The tasks to be completed are in hand.

Sharing of events is crucial for attendance, VFP UK members are urged to share website and social media posts and to encourage friends and family to attend the public events, especially the Film Night and the Band Night.

Volunteers and hosts are required for the Annual Gathering. Anyone able to help out please contact Danny Beever gathering@vfpuk.org

We are waiting to hear from the police on the timings for our ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Members will be asked to make an extra effort this year in terms of appearance at the Cenotaph.

05. Situation report: National Coordinator

A lot of time has been spent preparing to handover the role. This prep is in hand and will be complete in time for handover in November.

Work is well under way for our short Never Again campaign that will run up to Armistice Day. More information can be found here:

<http://vfpuk.org/articles/never-again-1918-2018/>

The Regional Coordinators workshop is planned for Thursday 8 November at Friends House in London. Planning is on time and the day will lead to an increase in the capabilities of our coordinators.

It is vital that all upcoming VFP UK activity and subsequent reports are submitted to the website. Posting an event on the secret facebook group or a closed whatsapp group is not enough. The website is the place of record and the vast majority of our members have access to it:

Upcoming: <http://vfpuk.org/contact/submit-upcoming-activity/>

Report: <http://vfpuk.org/contact/submit-a-report/>

06. Situation report: Chair

The chair has held several meetings with the National Coordinator to work through the action required resulting from the standing down of Ben Griffin from the National Coordinator role in November.

Speaking requests have increased since the last PG meeting. Care is being taken to pick and chose the requests that suit VFP UK.

Social Media

On Twitter we have 3000 followers.

On Facebook we have 26,325 page likes.

Interesting images of VFP UK actions work well on Facebook and Twitter

The website is our place of record on the internet and the only platform we own. Social media posts should when possible direct people to our website.

07. Priority campaign update

The Neutral Campaign is developing at a slower rate than anticipated. Which is to be expected given the unexpected workload for the National Coordinator. There is a working group with a clear plan on what needs to be done next:

Produce information postcards.

A series of articles on neutrality for the website.

We are building up a significant campaign fund through the sale of limited edition Neutral Country pin badges which are available to reserve through Ben Griffin coord@vfpuk.org. They will be available at the Annual Gathering.

A short promotional video needs to be produced.

There will be a presentation and discussion about the campaign at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 9 November in Friends House, Euston.

08. Handbook changes

The deadline for Handbook changes passed on September 15.

The Policy Group has worked through the changes to ensure they are consistent with our Statement of Purpose and Statement of Conduct.

The changes will be discussed and voted on at our AGM.

A copy of the proposed changes is attached to this report.

If anyone has questions about the changes or the rationale behind them, please call Ben Griffin to discuss on 07866559312.

09. VFP UK Election 2018

Any VFP UK member wishing to apply to stand for election to the Policy Group should apply via our website here: <http://vfpuk.org/handbook/policy-group-election/>

10. Any other business

VFP UK banners available to regional coordinators via Ben Griffin coord@vfpuk.org

Danny Beever will represent VFP UK at the No to NATO Bases conference in Dublin in November. Policy Group has authorised the payment of his flight and food expenses for the visit.

11. Allocation of any tasks

Nothing beyond usual responsibilities.

Next Meeting of the Policy Group will be at the VFP UK Annual General Meeting on Friday 9 November in Friends House Euston.