

**MINUTES OF ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 HELD AT THE CARLTON CLUB, STROUD**

**Attending:** Rick Rutter, Chris Blick, Michael Compton, Jane Wathern, Jean Stubley, Sheila Gibson, David Gearing and Emlyn Phennah

**1. Act of Homage.**

Rick Rutter opened the meeting with “The Silence” and read the Exhortation and Kohima.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Chris Price and Sally Welzel

**3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was proposed by Chris Blick and seconded by Jane Wathern.

**4. Statement of Current Financial Situation**

David Gearing’s e-mailed report is attached to the end of these minutes.

It was generally agreed that the £2k donation be preserved for any 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, either national or branch. Emlyn suggested that if we are to join in with any national event, the money could be used for transport of branch members; alternatively, David Gearing suggested that this sum could be used to finance any branch event. This item to be decided closer to the date.

**5. Future Dates**

The following were confirmed:

1. Branch Meetings - 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Carlton Club at 11.00 am. 2<sup>nd</sup> October venue to be confirmed. It was agreed that Rick Rutter ask Dusty Miller to give us a talk at one of the meetings. Michael Compton suggested that, for the other meeting, we have a story-telling session, where branch members can tell a story about some aspect of their service.
2. St Georges Day Service - 23<sup>rd</sup> April at St Barnabas Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester at 7.00 pm. Michael Compton to send in application for 11 tickets including standard bearer.
3. ANZAC Day - 28<sup>rd</sup> April at Lighterton – assemble at 2.45 pm at the cemetery for the service, tea and coffee will be served after the parade.
4. Rugby, Army v RAF - 11<sup>th</sup> May at Kingsholm – see Emlyn Phennah for details.
5. Service of Remembrance - 12<sup>th</sup> June at Earthcott Green - those wishing to attend to see Michael Compton at the next meeting. Curly Knowlton will be asked to lay the wreath.
6. Weymouth Weekend - 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> June – Chris Blick stated that places at the hotel are limited.
7. Grenadier Guards Garden Party - 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Those wishing to attend see Jean Stubley
8. Armed Forces Day - 29<sup>th</sup> June – Parade at Gloucester Cathedral and march to Docks. Also Rick Rutter and Emlyn Phennah to man table at Jet Age Museum.

9. AGM - 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Carlton Club at 11.00 am – it was agreed that Michael Compton ask Stephen Weall, the national secretary, to attend as the national committee’s representative.
10. Commemoration of Halifax Bomber crash on Cleeve Hill 80 years ago - 26<sup>th</sup> August – organised by RAFA, further details to be published.
11. Blackpool Weekend - 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September
12. Battle of Britain Sunday – 15<sup>th</sup> September at Cheltenham, Jim Major to be asked to lay the wreath.
13. Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance - 31<sup>st</sup> October at Cheltenham Long Garden
14. Remembrance Day Parade - 10<sup>th</sup> November at Cheltenham, John Longhurst to be asked to lay the wreath.
15. 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Withdrawal from Aden - 29<sup>th</sup> November at Cheltenham, Brian Woollaston asked to conduct service. (Mayor’s hospitality may or may not be available subject to sale of Municipal Offices.)
16. Annual Christmas Lunch - 4<sup>th</sup> December. Sheila Gibson has raised the point that some branch members would prefer to have a lunch at which only a few guests be asked to attend. This was noted and a number of venues will be investigated by Jean Stublely so that a short list can be discussed at the next meeting.
17. First Wednesday Lunches - 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September, and 6<sup>th</sup> November.; venues to be confirmed. NB It was decided that for the August date, we have lunch instead of an outing.

#### **6. Commitments for the Standard**

It was agreed that Robert Parrant be requested to parade the standard on the following occasions :

Items 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of para 5 above.

In addition standard should be present (boxed) at :

Items 9, and 16 of para 5 above.

#### **8. Long-Term Future of the AVA**

There has been no change to the plans published in the Dhow by Clive Candlin. All the national committee members have agreed to stay in post until the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **9. Support for Individual Application for GSM’s for Period 1960 to 1964.**

Rick Rutter briefed the Committee on the latest situation regarding our support for the individual applications for GSM’s for the “forgotten years”. This is to published in the March Dhow. Michael Compton is to be the coordinator for individual applications.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

Jean Stublely raised the subject of our venue for meetings. The new management of the Carlton Club have agreed to host us until further notice on the same basis as before. This matter can raised at the next general meeting.

ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH  
COMMITTEE MEETING 27TH FEBRUARY 2024

Treasurer's Notes

At the end of last year, we received a most generous donation of £2,000 from Grahame Harper. Grahame's generosity has secured the long-term financial future of the Branch, and has given us a bank balance to cover all known future eventualities. Without this windfall, we would have likely broken even, although there may be some admin expenses in the few weeks remaining of the current financial year. Excluding Grahame's donation, about half of our financial throughput was attributed to our Christmas lunch. The headline figures are :

Income	:	£4,502.25
Expenditure	:	£2,478.41
Bank Balance	:	£3,215.62

David Gearing