

Minutes from: Newent and District Branch of The Royal British Legion

Meeting held 22 September 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Rick Axon Pat Phillips Simon Mason Dave Pollock Mary Curtis Rachel Smith	Chairman Bar and Entertainments Member Deputy Padre Branch Padre Guest Speaker – Newent Fire Service
<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> <p>The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 1900 hrs and welcomed everyone to the Memorial Hall. He asked if we could spare a moment of thought for those who could not be with us tonight and those that were feeling under the weather, and especially for the Family of Daphne Saunders who passed away recently who was head of the lady's branch and as well as Secretary and for Rex Debenham who was the Branch Treasurer for a long while and suffered a stroke recently, Rex is recovering at home after a stay in Hospital, and of course for the family of our Sovereign and Patron Queen Elizabeth II. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of October and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Adrian Dover, Graham Barton, Viv Miles, Jon Miles, Pat Price, John Price, Keith Urch, Susan Urch, Elaine Balding, Helen Axon and Colin Calcutt.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>Good evening and welcome to everyone especially to our guests from the Fire Service Rachel Smith, who will be giving us a talk about being Safe and well and fire safety in the home:</p> <p>My report starts with:</p> <u>3.a. Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</u> <p>This has been a very difficult 3 weeks following the passing of our sovereign and patron Queen Elizabeth II who served as Patron of the Royal British Legion since 6 February 1952. We are immensely thankful for her faithful service, and we join the entire Armed Forces community, British and Commonwealth personnel and indeed people from all over the World in mourning her loss. Local events organised by Newent Town Council to mark her passing and attended by members of our branch were: A church service at St Mary's and the opening of a condolence book on 11 Sep, The Proclamation of our new King HRH King Charles III under Newent Market House on 11 Sep, and a Civic Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on 18 Sep at St Mary's. Our thanks go to the Parade Marshal for parading our</p>	

branch standard at all these events and to our members who turned up to represent our branch.

3.b. Remembrance Parade and Service – 13 November 2022

A team from the Branch committee (Padre, Parade Marshal, Deputy Chairman and Chairman) were asked to attend a meeting with Newent Town Council (NTC) on Wednesday 14 September 2022 to discuss this year's arrangements for the Remembrance Parade and Service on 13 November 2022 after some discussion the following was agreed:

Parade Muster	Lake Car Park	09:15
Step Off	Lake Car Park	09:35
Welcome & Remembrance	St Mary's	10:00
2-minute Silence	St Mary's Churchyard	11:00

Please put the date in your diaries and if you are able to join in on the Parade it will be good to see you there.

3.c. Community Health & Wellbeing Event – 2 September 2022

Colin Calcutt and myself attended the Health & Wellbeing Event that took place in Glebe Chapel Hub on Friday 2 September 2022, Colin and myself spoke to several people over the 3-hour event and gained several good contacts, not least Rachel from Gloucestershire Fire Service, a personal thanks goes to Colin for once again supporting me at this event, I for one will miss him when he moves to be with his family.

3.d. Branch Annual General Meeting – 27 October 2022

Newent & District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding it's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 27 October 2022 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7pm. This is a chance for members to take a more active role in the branch and be put forward for a position on the committee. If you feel that you can spare a couple of hours a month to help out the branch in it's various activities please get in touch, the positions on the committee that have to be filled to satisfy the constitution are: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, as you know we've been struggling along without a Secretary for quite some time, for the branch to continue it is imperative that the 3 mandatory positions are filled for the forthcoming year. Please let me know if you are prepared to help the branch out at this difficult time. It would be a shame for the branch to close, so near to obtaining it's 100 year status (Feb 2027).

3.e. Finally

Don't forget that as normal if anyone needs help in any way at all please do not hesitate to get in contact, and if we can help, we will.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and with just one matter arising:

Item 2. Apologies: Should have included Graham Barton's apology for the meeting.

Proposed by: PP, seconded by RA and agreed unanimously.

Chairman

5. Reports by Officers

5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support (BCS) (read by the Chairman)

For those friends and colleagues suffering ill health, caring for other family members and friends, please remember that we are always here to assist and support you.

5.a.1. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

Members are reminded that those of you still considering to aspire to be BCS Representatives, a series of on-line courses are available.

Members are again reminded of Key Officer vacancies within the Branch, without which The Branch may be forced to close or integrate with another Branch. This is the final call for nominations prior to our Branch AGM.

5.a.2. Welfare and Membership

5.a.2.a. Welfare

The Branch continues to aid and support its members and veterans.

In the first instant, please contact your Branch Representative(s) or Committee Member.

Should you wish to contact The National RBL Helpline, their telephone number is: 0808 802 8080

The Veteran's Gateway:

https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/127/~the-royal-british-legion



support.veteransgateway.org.uk

Be assured that we will continue to utilise our local knowledge and contacts to support our members.

5.a.2.b. Branch Membership

In accordance with current TRBL records, Branch Membership currently stands at 43 members. This reduction may be due to a number of reasons: delays in postal services, change in annual renewal dates and/or notification of changes of contact details, but does include a new member Kian Goodings who lives in Ross on Wye, whom we wish a heartfelt welcome and look forward to meeting him at future meetings. Members are reminded that in the event of issues with renewals, please contact your Membership Officer.

5.a.3. Branch Statistics

The Branch has provided support to a couple of our Members this period. We remember in particular Rex, who recently suffered a stroke and Colin C, shortly to move onto pastures new. This clearly identifies us as a caring Branch, providing various levels of assistance to our colleagues and friends in need of support. In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact a Committee Member or BCS Representative at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits	6
How many beneficiaries "visited"	2
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	4
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	6
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	2
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	4

In addition, a small number of email and telephone communications were made to TRBL HQ during this period.

5.a.4. Community and Youth Liaison

Members are reminded that Nominations for The John Whitehorn Trophy are open - further information is available together with Application Forms. Plans are being finalised for the forthcoming Remembrance Day activities - see the Chairman's Report for further information.

5.a.5. TRBL HQ Liaison and Branch Communications (OS365)

For further information relating to other HQ/Branch communications and other local activities, please see your Chairman's and other Representative Reports.

5.b. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's was read by the Chairman and stated that:

Income this month: £8 membership subscriptions. Current Account balance now £1199.34.

The MSO has acknowledged receipt of the end of year financial report after LOMAS staff intervened to reverse the original report. The Branch has met the deadline of 20th September.

5.c. Entertainments and Bar Member

Events proposed for the rest of this year are:

October Cheese and Wine - after AGM.

November Social in Cobblers - Thursday 24th, 20:00.

December Branch Christmas Meal – Alma Inn, Linton, 14th December, 19:00 (Menu not available until mid-November).

The Entertainments member also has several Branch mugs available to sell at £5 each and that if anyone wanted a Branch T-Shirt with the new RBL branding on please let him know, Rick needs a minimum order of 8, please email with sizes. Entertainments Member email for contact: rick@axon.org.uk

5.d. Branch Padre

The Branch Padre started by thanking all those members who supported the events after the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, stating that although its been a busy few weeks everything went well, and was pleased to see that the book of condolences was well received with hundreds of messages, which has now been archived.

Remembrance for this year is progressing well with ongoing talks with Newent Schools about the possibility of the young people wearing simple plain white T-Shirts with 1 or 2 names of Newent fallen embossed on them as

<p>a way of getting the youngsters taking a more active role in this year's remembrance.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that this could be something the branch could contribute to and support (in monetary terms), and asked that the Padre keep the branch informed on the progress.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	<p>Chairman Padre</p>
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. Gloucestershire Fire Service: Rachel Smith introduced herself as one of the shift commanders for Newent Community Fire and Rescue Station, she then gave a very informed talk and discussion session on Fire Safety in the home and the type of visits they perform to help house holders achieve this. The main topics of discussion were based around Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors as well as tips and hints to stay safe and well.</p> <p>Rachel handed out Fire Safety in the home booklets and gave some spare booklets to the Chairman, if any member would like one, please let the Chairman know.</p> <p>Because of the depleted numbers at tonight's meeting, Rachel agreed to come back in the New Year and address a larger audience, the Chairman agreed to contact Rachel in the New Year with possible dates.</p> <p>Rachel very kindly agreed to leave her contact details so that if anyone had any concerns or just needed advice they could contact her directly, or if members preferred, they could talk to any of the committee members and they could make contact on their behalf. Rachel Smith's contact details are: Telephone: 07768 740296 Email: rachel.smith@glosfire.gov.uk</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Rachel on behalf of the branch and looked forward to speaking with her again in the New Year.</p> <p>6.b. MacMillan Coffee Morning – 24 September 2022: The Chairman stated that on Saturday 24 September 2022 between 10am – 1pm, NTC and the Memorial Hall are putting on a MacMillan Coffee Morning.</p> <p>6.c. Dymock War Memorial Project: The Chairman sold the last remaining raffle ticket during the meeting but emphasized that if any member wanted some they should just get in touch.</p> <p>6.d. Thank You: The Chairman wanted to express a big thank you to Chris Walker (National and Gloucestershire Standard Bearer for the Association of WRENS) who at short notice volunteered to Parade the Branch Standard at Daphne Saunders Funeral and Commitment on 23 September 2022.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Chairman</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be the Branch Annual General Meeting which will be held on 27 October 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:15 hrs.</p>	<p>All</p>

Agenda

Newent & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

Annual General Meeting

27 October 2022

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Chairman's opening remarks.
4. Adoption of Minutes of previous AGM.
5. Matters arising from previous minutes.
6. Chairman's report.
7. Individual Officers' reports.
8. Presentation and adoption of accounts.
9. Election of Officers and Committee Members.