

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

Meeting held on 22 July 2021

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Keith Urch Pat Phillips Graham Barton Colin Britt Rick Axon David Sass John Celino Susan Urch Elaine Balding Colin Calcutt Pat Price John Price Tom Heseltine Helen Powell Jim Powell	Chairman BCS Representative, Deputy Chairman, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary. Deputy Padre Deputy Parade Marshal Deputy BCS Entertainments/Bar Member Treasurer President
<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 19:02 hrs and welcomed everyone to the branch meeting held in the Memorial Hall. He stated that it was good to see so many and welcomed 2 new members Helen and Jim. He asked if we could spare a moment of thought for those who could not be with us tonight and for those that were feeling under the weather. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of August and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.	
<u>2. Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from Adrian Dover, Susanne Britt and Tom Axon.	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> Introduction Good evening and welcome to July's branch meeting, even for the Royal British Legion this has been a very quiet month. The local news this month: Newent Town Council Discussions I've had a couple of discussions with our Veterans Representative and Newent Town council (NTC) this month, the first point was the	

first item in 'Any Other Business' from June's meeting about forming a partnership with NTC to start planning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee which is due to take place between 2 – 5 June 2022. The reply I received was ***"I am sure the council would be keen to work with you all regarding the Platinum Jubilee. It would be good to meet and talk. We do have an events committee, so it would come under that umbrella, I guess planning would need to start towards the end of this year?"*** I've asked her to pass on to the 'events committee' that we will have several volunteers who would be happy to meet and discuss possible scenario's as soon as the committee is ready.

The second thing this month was an invite to represent the Branch at a flag raising to celebrate NHS frontline workers day on 5th July, this took the form of raising the NHS flag and a minute's silence administered by our own branch padre. I did receive a comment that the Town did not fly the Armed Forces Day Flag this year to celebrate our serving forces, for which I received an apology from our Veterans Representative that this was ***"an oversight on our part not to have flown it over the period in June. We will get a calendar made up to remind us of the specific and important dates for the future."*** So, if anyone would like to volunteer to be the Branch Oracle on all things flag related, please let me know?

One Legion Strategy update

Last month I reported on the latest information I had received about the One Legion Strategy and this month on the 13th July, I attended a 'virtual Town Hall' meeting on the same topic, almost all of the information received was as before, however the new strategy will hinge around beneficiaries having a single point of contact which will be through a 'case manager' who will then have access to a 'multi-disciplined team', the idea being that this single point of contact is kept apprised of any developments in individual cases so that information can flow more easily. If this works it will be a giant leap forward, because and I'm sure the welfare team will attest to this, the beneficiary currently gets lost in the system which can add months to simple cases.

Recruitment of New Branch Members

As I mentioned last month, the president and the district Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) have planned to hold a recruitment drive and Poppy Appeal fundraising event, the branch have written off to NTC to have a stand under the Market House and to the Big Coop to stand outside on Saturday 24 July 2021. The Branch President sent out the following: ***"Can you please advise all Branch members that have volunteered to help at the recruitment day to meet underneath the Town Market House at 1045 on Saturday 24th July. Medals etc. are not compulsory but may be worn with blazers etc. If they want.*** Thank you to all those that have volunteered, its much appreciated.

Secretary Position

Thank you to all those who took the Secretary advertising posters last month and those who reposted or liked the social media versions, unfortunately I haven't yet received any enquiries to take on the role but I live in hope that something will come from the recruitment drive, shop window advertisements and social media posts.

So as usual I'm going to ask if anyone would like to take on this worthwhile role or have any idea's in recruiting a new Secretary please let me know, the thing to remember is if we do not have a full compliment of Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman by October's AGM the branch will have no option but to inform county of our predicament.

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 record. Proposed by SM and Seconded by SB and agreed unanimously. There were no Matters Arising not covered during the Chairman's report.

5. Reports by Officers

Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support

This month's report is rather brief as we meet together once more in our Branch Headquarters, Newent Memorial Hall.

Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

Your Representatives continue to attend virtual meetings and provide The Branch with all appropriate updates. The RBL BCS Steering Group continue to develop services and benefits are beginning to emerge, albeit slowly, for all Branches and will continue to do so in the coming months.

As we approach the summer holidays and the impending departure to pastures new of both our former Secretary Susanne and Colin (BCS Support and Bar) I wish to place on record my thanks and those of The Branch for their hours of support and dedication to Members.

Welfare and Membership

RBL HQ continues with its Strategic Review.

Welfare

Fred, ex-Army and former resident of Newent is now in a specialist secure dementia care home in Berkeley where we are informed, he has settled comfortably into his new surroundings.

The family of the late Victor Urch appreciate the significant support provided by The Branch and its Members, providing a Guard of Honour and Standard at his Memorial Service.

As in the past, we shall continue to aid and support our members and veterans, in the first instant, by signposting them to the National RBL Helpline.

The National RBL Helpline is: 0808 802 8080

The Veteran's Gateway:

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

[The Royal British Legion - Veterans' Gateway](#)



The Royal British Legion is a charity that provides life-long support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces and their families. They are the national custodian of Remembrance, they organise the annual Poppy Appeal, and campaign to improve the lives of the Armed Forces community.

support.veteransgateway.org.uk

Branch Membership

The Branch Membership now stands at 40 members and this evening we have the opportunity to welcome our two new members Helen and Jim.

We also look forward to welcoming another new member to our meetings, Jan Solobub, a transfer from Longhope Branch

Branch Statistics

The Branch has not been presented with any new cases this period.

In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact their BCS Representatives at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Distancing Welfare visits	NIL
How many beneficiaries "visited"	NIL
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	NIL
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL

Telephone Buddies:

Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	NIL
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Telephone – How many beneficiaries called NIL
Telephone – How many telephone buddies NIL
No other telephone or email communications were made during this period.

Youth Liaison

All liaison activities are limited in accordance with RBL Guidelines.

Community Liaison

In accordance with current RBL and HMG Guidelines interaction remains limited. Your BCS Team continues to conduct its general business in the main via social media and telephone.

Other Branch Information

BCS (Branch Community Support) Training

More information is becoming available via County Officers and certain programmes are now being rolled-out on line.

Remembrance Sunday in London

Those Members wishing to attend are in the first instance to contact RBL HQ and will ask you to provide responses to a range of the usual security questions.

Treasurer

Balance was assumed to be £1135.33 as reported at last meeting and an estimated receipt of 0.45p to be confirmed after sight of latest transaction report from cash machine.

Chairman delivered letter from Colin Thomson Newent Poppy Appeal Organiser detailing the cost of wreaths at £37.00.

Treasurer asked Chairman to sign cheque made out to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to be delivered to Colin Thomson.

Treasurer mentioned that he was not yet on the Bank list of signatories and therefore not able to sign cheques. The Bank Mandate forms can be obtained from a branch in Gloucester and can be collected next time the Treasurer is in the city.

Treasurer voiced a hope that online banking would come into force soon.

Entertainments Member

The entertainments member outlined this month's meal at the Kings Arms and the plan for a cream tea in August:

- **28 July 2021:** Evening Meal
Kings Arms
7pm Sit Down
11 Places currently filled

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 August 2021: Cream tea at Good News Centre, if members would like to attend the Cream Tea in the Good News Centre on Wednesday 25 August 2021 at 1pm please contact RA directly via email: rick@axon.org.uk . final numbers for Cream Tea to RA by 16 August 2021. <p><u>President</u></p> <p>The president briefly highlighted the plan for the recruitment and Poppy Appeal event to take place under the Market House on Saturday 24 July 2021, he asked that volunteers gather at the Memorial Hall for 10:30am in order to set up the stand, if agreement is given by the Co-op a second stand will be set up outside the main shop. After a show of hands approximately 6 members present volunteered to help out on the day.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>EB</u> – Proposed that the branch organise 2 x gift vouchers to the value of £40 (£20 per person) for our retiring Secretary and Deputy BCS, this was Seconded by SU and agreed Unanimously by all present.</p> <p><u>RA</u> – Stated that he has a spare medium branch T-Shirt available if anyone required it, he also stated that he already had several orders for new branch T-Shirts with the updated logo. Once he reaches 8 orders he will send off for a new batch, anyone else who requires a T-Shirt should contact RA directly via email: rick@axon.org.uk . The Chairman volunteered to send RA copies of the new logos.</p> <p><u>PP</u> – Stated that it was an honour to officiate at Victor Urch’s funeral last week.</p> <p><u>CB</u> – Wanted to thank the branch for all their support whilst acting as Deputy BCS especially being mentored by KU, he stated that he and SB were arranging leaving drinks probably in “Cobblers” in the near future and would let everybody know the date and time. The Chairman stated that all members enjoyed the ‘wheel barrow bar’ and CB & SB’s participation in all the past events and concluding by thanking them on behalf of the whole branch for their dedication and commitment serving the Newent & District Branch.</p> <p><u>KU</u> – Mentioned that if anyone wanted to see the link of the service for Victor let the Chairman know and he’ll post the media link.</p> <p><u>JP & HP</u> – Stated that they were glad they had now become members.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>EB</p> <p>All</p> <p>CB SB</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next Meeting will be held on 26 August 2021 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 for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 26 August 2021

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.
5. Reports by Officers.
6. Any Other Business.
7. Date of Next Meeting.