

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

Meeting held 26 May 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Keith Urch Helen Axon Graham Barton Elaine Balding Pat Phillips Susan Urch Colin Calcutt John Price Pat Price Dave Pollock Sue Colborne	Chairman Deputy Chairman, BCS Rep, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary Treasurer Parade Marshal Raffle Coordinator Deputy Padre
<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. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of June and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Adrian Dover, Rick Axon, Tom Axon, John Celino, Mary Curtis, Simon Mason, Helen Powell, Viv Miles, Jon Miles and Tom Heseltine.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>Good evening and welcome, I hope you are all well and looking forward to summer, once again even with so many apologies it is lovely to see so many of you here tonight.</p> <p>I'm going to start my report with an update to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:</p> <u>3.a. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations update – 2-5 June 2022</u> <p>On 17 May 2022, Graham, Simon and I attended the 4th and final meeting to discuss the arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations taking place over the long weekend of 2-5 June 2022. After much discussion the itinerary stayed pretty much the same as the April meeting, with only a slight change to the running order of the artists for Saturdays Picnic by the lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 2 Jun 22: Reading of the Proclamation and Raising of the Union flag. Outside the Library at 10am.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 3 Jun 22: Afternoon Cream Tea and Dance at the Memorial Hall (2 – 4:30pm), including appropriate music – Free event, with a toast to Her Majesty at 4pm. Our Parade Marshal has volunteered to parade the standard for the Loyal Toast, this event has now reached its limits on numbers. • Saturday 4 Jun 22: Picnic by the Lake (11:30 – 4pm), bring your own Picnic, the Bandstand will have live playing music throughout the afternoon, there will be a free Pig Roast and Scones. There will also be a Magician and Children’s entertainers throughout the day. Free Parking will be in force for the day and the National Anthem will be played at 3:30pm 3pm. • Sunday 5 Jun 22: Parade and Service – Uniformed Parade will assemble from 10am at St Mary’s Church, stepping off 10:10 – 10:15am to arrive at the main carpark by 10:25am, the Service will be open air and last approximately 1 hour (10:30 – 11:30am). 	<p>Padre Parade Marshal BCS Rep</p>
<p>Names and numbers of those attending each event above from the branch were sent to NTC. The Chairman wanted to thank all those involved from the branch who turned up to the meetings and helped shape the eventual programme of events.</p>	
<p><u>3.b. County BCS Training Course 11 June 2022</u></p>	
<p>After an email prompt, the county Membership Support Officer (MSO) finally got back to Keith and I to confirm that we both had places on the Branch Community Support (BCS) training event this is scheduled for 11 June 2022 in Stoke Gifford, we’ll let you know at the next meeting how the training went.</p>	<p>BCS Rep Chairman</p>
<p><u>3.c. Request for Parade Marshall – Onion Fayre 10 September 2022</u></p>	
<p>This week we received the following request from the Newent Onion Fayre committee:</p>	
<p><i>“I am writing to you on behalf of Newent Onion Fayre Committee to ask for a favour. The parade through the main street at the start of the Fayre has often been a little haphazard.</i></p>	
<p><i>Due to the fact that committee members are often busy supervising stallholders and 'troubleshooting' etc. there is no one taking charge of the parade.</i></p>	
<p><i>We are in need of a parade marshal and David Sass suggested you would be the best person to ask for help. Would you be prepared to assist us for an hour on the morning of the Fayre, to marshal the various people such as invited dignitaries (I irreverently refer to as the 'Chain Gang'), mascots, clown, stilt-walkers etc. and get the parade into order?</i></p>	
<p><i>We would greatly appreciate your help.”</i></p>	
<p>After some discussion it was agreed that our Parade Marshal (who is available and willing to help) would offer his support to Newent Onion Fayre (NOF) committee, however, the Chairman will write to the Committee and ask that both the Chairman and Parade Marshal be present at a future NOF committee meeting to discuss exactly what is required.</p>	<p>Parade Marshal Chairman NOF</p>

3.d. Branch Committee Positions

As I've mentioned previously, the branch is looking for a secretary to join the committee. The Secretary is a mandatory requirement of maintaining a branch. If a Secretary is not found then in all likelihood our branch would be amalgamated with another branch or disbanded, and I have also decided to standdown at this years AGM, so if anyone would like to take on the Chairman's role I would be happy to show you the ropes. So please if you have any thoughts or suggestions on recruiting a Secretary or Chairman please let me know.

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 this was proposed by KU and Seconded by EB and agreed unanimously by all those present. The only Matter's Arising was items 6.d. and 6.e. and both were covered in today's Chairmans report.

5. Reports by Officers

5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support

Being ever mindful of our friends and colleagues that are suffering ill health, caring for other family members and friends we remember in particular this month the family and friends of the late Lionel Buckland of Glebe Close who recently passed away: our thanks to those members that attended his funeral in Aston Ingham.

You are constantly reminded that your Branch is here to support you and your family; you only need to contact one of the Committee.

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

TRBL HQ businesses have returned to their new level of normal. Your BCS representative and your chairman, having contacted our MSO (Membership Support Officer), Seamus Brennan (SBrennan@britishlegion.org.uk), are attending a BCS training and safeguarding training session on Saturday, 11th June, in Stoke Gifford, Bristol: feedback will be provided in due course.

Please note that should another member wish to attend they should inform your BCS Rep at the earliest convenience so that arrangements may be made.

5.c. Welfare and Membership

TRBL still continues with its Strategic Review: more information will be available in the near future.

5.c.1. Welfare

We 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 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

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

5.c.2. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, Branch Membership has now increased to 47 members.

We welcome two new members, Clare and Martin Gregory from Redmarley and look forward to their future attendance at our Branch events.

Members are again reminded that should they experience difficulty in renewing their membership, they may contact your BCS representative.

5.c.3. Branch Statistics

The Branch has not been presented with any new formal requests for support this period, although once again, members have kindly provided various levels of assistance to their colleagues and friends in continual need of support.

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 Welfare visits:	6
How many beneficiaries "visited"	3
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	4
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	8
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	3
Telephone – How many telephone buddies	5

In addition, to the above, a small number of email communications were also made during this period.

5.c.4. Youth Liaison

Communications have continued between Newent Community School, Glos Constabulary (PCSOs) and certain businesses regarding recent anti-social behaviour. reported by a couple of members. We continue to receive assurances that those young people involved have been reprimanded and that most issues have now been resolved.

The young people's activity group YAG is to become independent of Newent Town Council and a meeting is being arranged to encourage their support and involvement with TRBL

5.c.5. Community Liaison

Members are asked to note arrangements for the forthcoming Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in conjunction with Newent Town Council, the Newent Initiative Trust and the Youth Action Group.

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

5.d. Other Branch Information

5.d.1.Branch Communications OS365

Your representative continues to await TRBL HQ links to be reinstated but in the meantime your chairman is supporting the transfer of TRBL information.

5.e. Treasurer

I now have an "authorisation card" which means that I can access the account without waiting for a bank statement.

All three signatories have been accepted by Barclays.

Outgoing transactions this month have been £45 to the Onion Fayre to book a stall.

Current balance £1162.48.

A cheque to the Poppy Fund of £22.14 has not yet been presented. When this has been cashed the current balance will be £1140.37.

5.f. Padre

5.f.1. Local Ukrainian Refugee Effort. The Padre sends his apologies as he can't be with us tonight, however he did want to mention that the Ukrainian Hub will be holding a lunch in Picklenash School on Saturday 28 May starting at 12pm and was hoping that a member or members of the branch if interested could attend.

Decision: After some discussion EB & RB volunteered to represent the branch at the lunch on 28 May 2022.

5.f.2. Charity Walk in aid of Homeless Veterans. In March the Padre informed members about a lady who is commencing a charity walk in aid of Homeless Veterans and that she intends to make a stopover in Newent on the 25 August 2022, he has recently contacted her to ask if this was still the case and she is, however she was wondering if anyone could put her up for the night on the 25th August in or around Newent. Unfortunately, the Padre is unable to oblige.

Decision: After some discussion SC volunteered to provide accommodation for this person plus SU & KU volunteered to act as 'backup' accommodation providers if SC was unable to do it. It was also stated that the 25 Aug, was a branch meeting night and therefore, this lady should be invited to attend the meeting and inform the members about her charitable endeavours.

5.g. Entertainments and Bar Member

Unfortunately Skittles for May had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

As numbers attending appear to be dropping significantly, I think it would be best to cancel Skittles practice over the Summer. If there is enough interest I will organise a match against Ross-on-Wye Conservative Club.

Events proposed for the rest of this year are:

June **Skittles** - Cancelled
Visit to Matara (matara.co.uk) – There has only been one response to this event, therefore I won't peruse it any further.

July **Skittles** - Cancelled.

EB & RB

SC
SU & KU

<p><u>August</u> Skittles - Cancelled. Branch BBQ – Saturday 6th, more details to follow.</p> <p><u>September</u> Skittles, possible match with the Ross-On-Wye Conservative club. Onion Fayre – 10th September Afternoon/Cream tea – Trioscape - Date to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>October</u> Skittles – Dependent on numbers. Cheese and Wine - after AGM</p> <p><u>November</u> Skittles - Dependent on numbers. Social in Cobblers - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p> <p><u>December</u> Skittles - Dependent on numbers. Branch Christmas Meal - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p>	<p>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</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. The Parade Marshal mentioned that the branch requires someone to carry the Standard for the Jubilee Parade and Service on 5 June 2022. The Chairman mentioned that he had already approached the Air Training Corp and the stand-in for the last remembrance parade, but as yet had not received a reply. It is known that the local RAFA standard bearer lives locally and SC offered to ask him if he was available, the Chairman also said that he would ask the Poppy Appeal Coordinator (ex-branch Standard Bearer) if he would be able to help the branch out and the Treasurer said she would ask the Ents Member if he would carry it.</p> <p>6.b. The Raffle Coordinator asked if anyone has any unwanted gifts, she would welcome any donations to help with the selection of raffle prizes.</p> <p>6.c. The Deputy Padre stated that it was TH 80th Birthday today and that his party will be on Saturday Evening, the BCS Rep then passed a birthday card around the members for them to sign and wish TH all the best.</p> <p>6.d. The Chairman read out the invitation from the Memorial Woodlands Annual Service of Remembrance which will take place on 15 June 2022 at Bristol Memorial Woodlands, Earthcott Green, Alveston, Bristol, BS35 3TA. Starting at 10:30am. If anyone would like to attend, they should contact: Abbie Mukcahy at abbie@memorialwoodlands.com .</p> <p>6.e. The Chairman mentioned that he was on holiday for the next meeting and that the Deputy Chairman would be running the meeting, but he required someone to record and write the minutes, HA volunteered to take next month's minutes and if there was any issues SC would stand-in, the chairman offered his thanks.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">SC Treasurer Chairman</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 23 June 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:00 hrs.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>

Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 23 June 2022

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.