



Royal British Legion Minchinhampton Branch

Minutes of Branch Meeting

Wednesday 12th March 2025 – 7.30pm – Cotswold Club

Item		Action																																								
1	Act of Homage – POC1, Mr Roger Sims Prayers and reflection – POC2 Mr Simon Ritter																																									
2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Roll Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Blick</td> <td>Mr P Hayward</td> <td>Mrs C Nurden</td> <td>Mr D Nurden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs R Robbins</td> <td>Mr D Sparrow</td> <td>Mr M Ballinger</td> <td>Mrs J Hanchett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr R Sims</td> <td>Mrs H Sims</td> <td>Mr S Ritter</td> <td>Mrs G Ballinger</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Apologies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr G Robbins</td> <td>Mr I Lloyd</td> <td>Mr H Gibson</td> <td>Mr K Lander</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs H Kemmett</td> <td>Mr N Parry</td> <td>Mrs A Parry</td> <td>Mr D Chitty</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs A Toomer</td> <td>Mr D Toomer</td> <td>Mr G Palmer</td> <td>Mr J Clark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr D Hanchett</td> <td>Mr C Riggs</td> <td>Mrs J Broad</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Roll Call				Mr C Blick	Mr P Hayward	Mrs C Nurden	Mr D Nurden	Mrs R Robbins	Mr D Sparrow	Mr M Ballinger	Mrs J Hanchett	Mr R Sims	Mrs H Sims	Mr S Ritter	Mrs G Ballinger					Apologies				Mr G Robbins	Mr I Lloyd	Mr H Gibson	Mr K Lander	Mrs H Kemmett	Mr N Parry	Mrs A Parry	Mr D Chitty	Mrs A Toomer	Mr D Toomer	Mr G Palmer	Mr J Clark	Mr D Hanchett	Mr C Riggs	Mrs J Broad		
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3 & 4	The Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd October 2024 had been circulated by email And were approved by Paul Hayward seconded by Maurice Ballinger There were no matters arising.																																									
5	Welfare: Simon visited Darrell Russell on behalf of the Legion following the death of Darrell's wife Marjory. They had been married for 64 years. Darrell was the Branch Standard Bearer for many years. His family have been very supportive and Simon offered Legion assistance if needed. Darrell is happy to receive visitors and POC1 will deliver a condolence card on behalf of the Branch. Marjorie's funeral is at Gloucester Crematorium on 26 th March at 10am. POC1 will establish if there will be a memorial service.	POC1																																								
6	Finance: POC1 reported that our CSB ring-fenced account stands at £2186.30 the same figure as reported at our AGM last October. The County finances run from July to July so by our 2025 AGM this should increase by £31. Based on the £1 voluntary contribution included in their annual RBL subscription. We currently have 31 paid up Branch members.	None																																								
7	Poppy Appeal: Paul Hayward reported that the current Branch Poppy Appeal stands at £6126.32 as of this February.																																									
8	Branch Website: Paul Hayward has undertaken to update the web site including liaising with the Minch Local History Group. We have agreed to have a link to our site displayed on the Cotswold Club site. POC1 will liaise with the Cotswold Club.	PH																																								
9	<p>RBL Parades and Commemorations:</p> <p>1. Leighterton ANZAC 27th April 2025: Simon will attend with our Branch Standard. Ian Lloyd is unable to attend this year. Any member wishing to attend please liaise with Simon Ritter.</p> <p>2. VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025: POC1 will coordinate a Branch gathering at the Memorial in the High Street at 11am to commemorate the occasion. Branch members will be informed as arrangements progress. The event will be advertised in MinchLife, the Parish Mag and on our Web site.</p> <p>3. Armed Forces Day 28th June 2025: No local activities are planned by the branch. Chris Blick is planning to attend the Aden Veterans Association gathering in Weymouth that weekend and has arranged accommodation at reduced cost. If anybody is interested let me know and I will send out the info.</p>	POC1																																								

10	<p>Social Programme:</p> <p>1. A visit to NMA was discussed and the decision made that Members should make their own arrangements and use individual transport. Check the NMA web site for parking, eating and tours. POC1 will be going to the NMA on 10th June to attend the dedication of a memorial at 2pm and intends arriving there at midday and leaving late afternoon. If other members go that day, we could all meet up.</p> <p>2. A skittles evening at the Cotswold Club was discussed but no decision was made. If there is interest, please contact POC1.</p> <p>3. It was proposed that a Quiz be held in the Cotswold Club on 24th October in aid of the 2025 Poppy appeal. Coralie Nurden to arrange with Brian Powell and confirm date.</p>	
11	<p>Future of the Branch:</p> <p>Discussed need to attract new members by advertising and word of mouth. To this end our Branch Website will be updated and maintained. The Cotswold Club have agreed to put a link to our Branch site on their website which could result in social media interest.</p>	
12	<p>Frequency of Branch Meetings:</p> <p>It was agreed that two meetings would be held per year one of which will be the AGM. This is the minimum requirement for a County Supported Branch (CSB). Until now we have held three per annum but attendance over the past year has been less than 50% of membership. The next Branch meeting will therefore be the AGM to be held at the Cotswold Club 7.30pm Wednesday 15th October 2025.</p>	
13	<p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Members were encouraged to suggest representatives from local organisations who might be interested in presenting a short talk on their subject. Please contact POC1 if you have any ideas.</p>	
14	<p>AOB:</p> <p>POC1 showed the members the original parchment certificate of the agreement between the RBL Branch and the Cotswold Club dated 1946 which had been displayed in the Club but taken down when refurbishment started. POC1 asked for approval to have it re-framed at Branch cost and displayed in the Cotswold Club. Unanimously approved by a show of hands.</p>	POC1
15	<p>Raffle:</p> <p>The raffle raised £27 which was donated to the Poppy Appeal. Thanks to all who donated prizes and particular thanks to Helen Sims who organised the raffle in addition to taking the Minutes of the meeting.</p>	
	<p>The next meeting will be the AGM on 15th October 2025. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.</p>	