**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING (26)**

**YEOVIL AND DISTICT BRANCH RBL (BR2555)**

**HELD AT 1900hrs ON 14 DEC 23**

1. ACT OF REMEMBRANCE BY THE CHAIRMAN

2. CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

The Secretary welcomed all those present and stated that in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman he would be chairing this meeting. He welcomed the Treasurer back to the committee following his prolonged absence due to illness and thanked him for hosting this evening’s meeting at his house.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Le Hardy (Hon President), Andy Kendal (Treasurer). Roger Law (Member) and John Emery (Secretary).

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Simon Woodrow (Chairman), Tim Tatler (Joint Vice-Chairman),

5. MINUTES OF MEETING 25

Copies of this meeting had been distributed and copies were made available to all present. It was agreed by all present that they were a true and accurate record of that meeting. The minutes were then signed off by the Secretary.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

7. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Apologies received, nothing to report.

8. VICE-CHAIRMENS REPORT

Apologies received, nothing to report.

9. PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

At the last RBL Annual National Conference the motion to change the balance of the Board of Trustees away from membership had not been approved. The National Chairman had recently issued a message stating that this motion was currently being re-addressed and would not now be submitted at the 2024 Annual Conference as previously indicated. The motion would now be submitted to the 2025 Annual Conference. The President stated that this one year delay would give more time for any proposed future changes to the RBL Constitution to be looked at in more detail by the Somerset RBL.

He requested that the Secretary add this subject for discussion to the agenda for the next and future committee meetings.

10. TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer stated that he was still having problems with Barclays Bank in the administration of the Branch account. Barclays had effectively closed the Branch Account and issued a cheque for the value of Branch Funds to the Treasurer.

After some discussion it was agreed that prior to the next meeting the Treasurer and the Secretary would contact Barclays to address any issues that the bank may have. If necessary, the Branch would investigate moving its business to a different bank.

11. SECRETARY’S REPORT

The Secretary was pleased to report an increase of two members to the Branch since the AGM. To help in the stated AGM aim to recruit new members to the Branch he would contact Kate Hurley to obtain some Membership Leaflets to which he would add the Yeovil Branch details. These could be distributed at venues where ex-service members congregate e.g. Armed Forces Breakfast Clubs and other similar gatherings.

He stated that the annual MS1/MS1b were due at county by 31 Dec 23 and nominations for the County and National Conference were yet to be made.

Post Meeting Notes:

1. The Chairman is dealing with the MS1 and will scan and send copies to county by the due date.
2. The Secretary will contact the County Office for the details of the cut off dates for nominations for the County and National Conferences.

12. VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORITUM

The Branch is looking at carrying out a visit in the new year. The Secretary stated that this was an ongoing project, however before it can proceed a volunteer is required to take ownership of the project. He asked the committee to see if there were any willing volunteers within the Branch Membership. Other local ex-service organisations would be invited to join us.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Max 5 mins for each person)

Roger Law enquired as to the procedure for families of ex-service personnel requesting attendance from representatives of the Branch or the Branch Standard at a funeral.

Post Meeting Note: All local Funeral Directors have details of the Chairman and would any requests for support would go through him in the first instance. He was adamant that no veteran should make their final journey alone.

The Secretary noted that the Branch currently has both a Facebook Page and a Website. He asked who was the Branch Webmaster and who was the Admin for the Facebook Page?

Post Meeting Note: The Chairman is the Admin for the Branch Facebook page. The ex-Secretary, Dan Crooke, is still the Webmaster. The Website is currently out of date, and it needs some rectification work. The Chairman has the received admin details from Kate Hurley. Any volunteers to take on the role of Webmaster!!

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Branch Committee Meeting will be held at 1900hrs on 22 Feb 24 at the same venue.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 2030hrs.

15. KOHIMA CLOSING PRAYER

John

M J Emery MBE S Woodrow

Branch Secretary Branch Chairman