



# Royal British Legion Minchinhampton Branch

## Branch Meeting AGM - Minutes

Wednesday 15th October 2025 – 7.30pm – Cotswold Club

Item		Action																																																
1	<p><b>Act of Homage</b> – POC1 Mr Roger Sims  <b>Prayers and reflection</b> – POC2 Mr Simon Ritter</p>																																																	
2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>Roll Call</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Blick</td> <td>Mr P Hayward</td> <td>Mr G Robbins</td> <td>Mrs R Robbins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr I Lloyd</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></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>Apologies</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr D Nurden</td> <td>Mrs C Nurden</td> <td>Mrs J Broad</td> <td>Mrs G Ballinger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs A Toomer</td> <td>Mr D Toomer</td> <td>Mrs A Parry</td> <td>Mr N Parry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs H Kemmett</td> <td>Mr M Palmer</td> <td>Mrs M Palmer</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><b>Visitors</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr A Walworth</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Roll Call</b>				Mr C Blick	Mr P Hayward	Mr G Robbins	Mrs R Robbins	Mr I Lloyd	Mr D Sparrow	Mr M Ballinger	Mrs J Hanchett	Mr R Sims	Mrs H Sims	Mr S Ritter						<b>Apologies</b>				Mr D Nurden	Mrs C Nurden	Mrs J Broad	Mrs G Ballinger	Mrs A Toomer	Mr D Toomer	Mrs A Parry	Mr N Parry	Mrs H Kemmett	Mr M Palmer	Mrs M Palmer						<b>Visitors</b>				Mr A Walworth				
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3	<p><b>The Minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 and General meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 had been circulated to all members by email.</b></p>																																																	
4	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b>  None from the 2024 AGM  Item 8 of March 2025 General meeting – Branch Web Site:  Webmaster Paul Hayward stated that he will undertake an up-date after the conclusion of this year's Poppy appeal.</p>	PH																																																
5	<p><b>Approval of Minutes:</b>  Both were unanimously approved by a show of hands.</p>	None																																																
6	<p><b>Appointment of officers for the ensuing year:</b>  <b>Roger Sims stated that he wished to relinquish the role of POC1</b>  <b>Simon Ritter is willing to remain as POC2, Standard Bearer and Welfare officer</b>  As there were no volunteers to undertake the post of POC1, Roger Sims declared that he was willing to remain in that role for another year rather than close the Branch due our inability to fulfil the requisite officials. This was on the understanding that his brief was limited to Chairing meetings, administration and organisation of local ceremonial events. Social activities including outings and organising guest speakers will need to be undertaken by volunteers from the Branch members. <b>Roger Sims &amp; Simon Ritter</b> were proposed to continue in their current roles by Maurice Ballinger and seconded by Ian Lloyd and Jenny Hanchett and unanimously elected by a show of hands. The relevant forms (MS1) will be completed and submitted to RBL County HQ in due course.</p>																																																	
7	<p><b>Finance:</b>  POC1 reported that our ringfenced account stands at £2229.40. This includes the voluntary £1 per member donated to the Branch at membership renewal and accrued interest. The County treasurer has been most helpful and will ensure the voluntary donation will continue to be credited to our Branch ringfenced account.</p>																																																	

8	<p><b>Poppy Appeal:</b>  Poppy Appeal Organiser Paul Hayward stated that last year’s Appeal had yielded £6186.32 and that the collection boxes had been distributed to all local business etc for this year’s appeal. Boxes now have QR codes on them. Volunteer collectors covering our area will continue as before.</p> <p>Paul informed the Branch that Poppy wreaths now had to be paid for, £28.50 for wreath with centre motif and £20 without centre. He will contact local organisations who lay wreaths on Remembrance Sunday. A wreath is laid on behalf of the Ladies section which has now been subsumed into the County Supported Branch. Maurice Ballinger queried this ongoing practice particularly as we now have to pay for the wreaths. Paul Hayward said that historically the women’s section was very active in the community and as there are still many past members involved in fund raising the “Ladies Section” should continue to be recognised. Annie Toomer lays a wreath on their behalf at the gathering on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that this practice should continue and that the wreath will be paid for out of our Branch ringfenced funds as will the Branch wreath. It is estimated that members current £1 voluntary contribution at renewal of membership plus accrued annual interest will cover the cost of both wreaths.</p>	
9	<p><b>Welfare:</b>  Welfare officer Simon Ritter had nothing to report.</p>	
10	<p><b>Remembrance 2024:</b>  The Poppy appeal is underway.  POC1 will talk to the Head of the Primary school re a visit to an assembly prior to Remembrance, possibly Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Timing for laying of poppy crosses on war graves in the churchyard by school children and students from the Chine school will be discussed with the relevant Head teachers.</p> <p>The parade on Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November will commence at 10.45 immediately after the 9.45 Church Service, followed at 11.00 by the act of Remembrance at the Cross. Armistice day will be commemorated on 11<sup>th</sup> November gathering at the Memorial Cross at 10.45. Road closures will be in place on the 9<sup>th</sup> <b>but not the 11<sup>th</sup>.</b></p>	
11	<p><b>Social Programme:</b>  Coralie Nurden and Annie Toomer have organized a Quiz Night in the Cotswold Club at 7.30 pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, the proceeds of which will go to the Poppy appeal. Brian Powel will run the quiz. Tables of up to 4 people at £10 per table. Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Please contact Coralie.</p>	
12	<p><b>Frequency of future Branch meetings:</b>  It was proposed that during 2026 we will hold one general meetings plus the AGM. The following date was agreed:  Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026  The AGM to be held on a Wednesday during October 2025 – exact date to be advised.</p>	
13	<p><b>Thanks were given to Helen Sims for taking the minutes.</b>  <b>There being no further business, POC1 declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.</b></p>	