

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

Meeting held 25 August 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding	Chairman
Keith Urch	Deputy Chairman, BCS Rep, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary
Helen Axon	Treasurer
Rick Axon	Bar and Entertainments Member
Elaine Balding	Raffle Coordinator
Pat Phillips	Deputy Padre
Susan Urch	
John Price	
Colin Bell	Guest
Ian Bruce	Guest
Colin Thompson	Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p><u>1. Act of Remembrance</u></p> <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 September and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<p><u>2. Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies had been received from Adrian Dover, Tom Axon, John Celino, Mary Curtis, Viv Miles, Jon Miles, Pat Price, Sue Colbourne, Simon Mason, Dave Pollock, Colin Calcott and Tom Heseltine.</p>	
<p><u>3. Chairman's Report</u></p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Good evening and welcome to everyone especially to our guests from Dymock, who are here to tell us about their plans to restore the Dymock War Memorial, some of you will remember Dinger from one of our Bowling evenings, so I will now handover the meeting to Dymock so they can let us know their plans: Colin and Ian gave a brief synopsis of their plans to renovate the War Memorial in Dymock and the history behind it, they stated that they hoped to start work in the spring and have the renovations completed by remembrance Sunday on 13 November 2022. The renovation includes making the memorial safe and adding 5 extra names that previously was not recorded. They have several ideas to generate funds one of which is a sponsored car wash in January 2023 with the "car washers wearing speedo's" and a raffle which will be drawn at a Curry luncheon following the Dymock remembrance service in the Beauchamp Arms, the lunch will cost £15 pp and anyone interested should contact the Beauchamp Arms on 01531 590005 to book places. Raffle Tickets cost £1 each there is an excellent array of prizes, the branch chairman has a small supply of tickets if anyone wishes to purchase any. A copy of the prize list will be attached to these</p>	Chairman

minutes. The branch chairman has also agreed to collect any sealed bids for raffle prize number 16 or they can be handed in to the Beauchamp Arms.

The rest of my report this month is short, however I did receive the following emails:

3.a.Branch BBQ – 6 August 2022

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Branch BBQ, the weather was very kind to us and everyone seemed to have a good time, my thanks must also go to our generous hosts, Keith & Sue for not only hosting the event but all the extra effort in making the day a success.

3.b. Health & Wellbeing Invitation Event

You may recall that the branch had an invitation to participate in a Health & Wellbeing Event that is taking place in the Glebe Chapel Hub on Friday 2 September 2022, between 10am and 1pm. As agreed I informed the organiser Beverley Paxton that the branch would be represented at the event, it's a 3-hour event so I would like some volunteers to stand by our table and answer any questions or queries that might arise, I currently only have one volunteer please let me know if you are available to help.

3.c. Remembrance Parade and Service – 13 November 2022

The Newent Town Council (NTC) Veterans Representative and Mayor Christine Howley has contacted the Branch with regards to starting the planning for this year's Remembrance Parade and Service which will take place on 13 November 2022. After communicating with the Branch Padre, Deputy Chairman and Parade Marshall we have agreed the date of 14th or 15th September 2022 for the first meeting, we are just waiting for the town clerk to get back from holiday to decide which date and a time, I will keep you all informed on progress.

3.d. Branch End of Year Accounts

As mentioned in last month's Treasurer's report, the branch treasurer has been having some difficulties in getting a response from the Regions Membership Support Officer (MSO), after several emails we have finally had confirmation from the MSO that he has now received the end of year accounts, I'm sure the treasurer will let you know a little more during her report.

3.e. Branch Committee Positions

The branch is still 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.

3.f. 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

Chairman

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and no matters arising.

Proposed by: KU, seconded by JP and agreed unanimously.

5. Reports by Officers

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

For those friends and colleagues suffering ill health, caring for other family members and friends, remember that we are always here to assist and support; you only need to contact one of your Committee Members

5.a.1. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

Members are reminded that those of you wishing to aspire to be BCS Representatives, a series of on-line courses are now available.

Both your Chairman and Deputy have now completed the on-line training courses that address: GDPR, Safeguarding (Vulnerable Adults and Young People) and Lone Working.

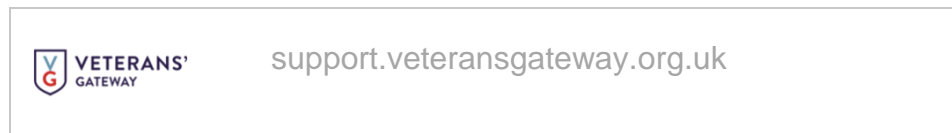
Members are once again reminded of Key Officer vacancies within the Branch, without which The Branch may be forced to close or integrate with another Branch.

5.a.2. Welfare and Membership

5.a.2.a. Welfare

The Branch continues to aid and support its 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.a.2.b. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, Branch Membership currently stands at 45 members.

5.a.3. Branch Statistics

The Branch has provided support to a couple of our members this period.

This clearly identifies us as a caring Branch, providing various levels of assistance to our colleagues and friends in need of support.

In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact a Committee Member or BCS Representative at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits	4
How many beneficiaries "visited"	2

<p>How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters) 2 Total Welfare Expenditure NIL Telephone Buddies: Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive 4 Telephone – How many beneficiaries called 2 Telephone – How many telephone buddies: 2</p> <p>However in addition, a small number of email and telephone communications were made to TRBL HQ during this period.</p> <p>5.a.4. Community and Youth Liaison</p> <p>Members are reminded that Nominations for The John Whitehorn Trophy are now open - further information is available together with Application Forms.</p> <p>Plans are being prepared for the forthcoming Remembrance Day activities - see the Chairman’s Report for further information.</p> <p>5.a.5. TRBL HQ Liaison and Branch Communications (OS365)</p> <p>For further information relating to other HQ/Branch communications and other local activities, please see your Chairman’s and other Representative Reports.</p> <p><u>5.b. Treasurers Report</u></p> <p>The Treasurer’s stated that:</p> <p>There have been no transactions in the last 30 days.</p> <p>The balance stands at £1191.34.</p> <p>The end of year report (30th June 2022) has been returned to the MSO in PDF format, we have received notification that the MSO has received them but nothing further.</p> <p><u>5.c. Entertainments and Bar Member</u></p> <p>The Entertainments and Bar Members report was read out by the Chairman:</p> <p>Events proposed for the rest of this year are:</p> <p>October - Cheese and Wine - after AGM on 27 October 2022 (RA to organise) November - Social in Cobblers - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book). December - Branch Christmas Meal - Date and venue 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>	Ents Member
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. The Poppy Appeal Organiser informed all present that he attended a seminar at Frampton Manor where it was stated that to date £38.6 million had been donated and £586,388.53 of that was from Gloucestershire. The PAO then went on to inform us about a project that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has contacted him about, it briefly involves a local man from Oxenhall who died on 13 February 1919 by the name of</p>	

<p>Private Percy Griffin Williams, Percy was buried in Oxenhall cemetery but it's location is unknown so the CWGC want to erect a gravestone to honour Percy, 2 branch members (SU & KU) are researching known family members, the PAO is just awaiting confirmation from all parties that this work can go ahead, when the stone will be engraved hopefully by February-March 2023. The PAO hoped to get a Welsh bugler for the dedication ceremony and invited the branch to attend with the Standard. The PAO will keep the branch informed on progress.</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. SU informed everyone present that the Chill Out Zone have managed to raise enough donations to purchase a Coffee Machine and Coffee will be available at the price of £2 per cup, everyone is welcome to attend.</p>	
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 22 September 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 19:50 hrs.</p>	All

Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 22 September 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.