

The Royal British
Legion
Harwell Branch
BR1805

Monthly Branch Meeting
Held on 28th March 2017
In the Branch Headquarters at Westfield
At 20.00 Hours.

ATTENDANCE:

R.C. East - President
R.J. White - Chairman
P. Davies - Vice Chairman, Ceremonial Officer and Deputy Standard Bearer
P. A. Cox - Secretary, Poppy Appeal Organiser and Welfare Representative
Mrs S. E. Pateman - Membership Secretary
S. T. Haycox - Treasurer

COMMITTEE: J Belton, G Street

MEMBERS: None

1. EXHORTATION AND KOHIMA EPITAPH

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present. This was followed by the exhortation and silent tribute; he ended with the Kohima Epitaph.

2. APOLOGIES: C East, B. Mulford

3. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2017 MEETING

All present had seen the Minutes before the meeting. There were no corrections. On acceptance as a true record the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

The Chairman said that all Matters Arising would come up under the following reports.

5. D DAY SERVICE 2017, HARWELL FAMILY FUN DAY AND CHILTON FESTIVAL

The Ceremonial Officer and Secretary reported on arrangements:

5.1 Parading Groups

38 Group: The Ceremonial Officer and Robert Girling are chasing this invitation.

Didcot Squadron ATC: The Ceremonial Officer and Robert Girling have met with the Squadron to discuss details.

Veterans and Youth Groups: The Ceremonial Officer is also in contact with the Glider Pilot Regiment Society and will be writing to Vauxhall Barracks, Riders Branch, Newbury Veterans groups, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Regimental Old Comrades, ATC Wantage, Chilton Cubs and Scouts and Chilton School.

Civic Dignitaries: The Secretary will write to the Vale District Council Chairman, Didcot Mayor, Harwell and Chilton Parish Council Chairs, Didcot Town Twinning and the Harwellian Club.

Harwell Campus Organisations: The Secretary will contact Diamond Light Source, Magnox Harwell, MRC Mary Lyon Centre, Public Health England, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Harwell Campus.

5.2 Participants

County: The Ceremonial Officer has passed details to the County Membership Support Officer and County Committee to arrange a stall.

First Aider: The Ceremonial Officer said that Robert Girling has arranged first aid cover until 18:00 on the day.

Refreshments: The Ceremonial Officer said that Robert Girling will ask Chilton WI.

The Ceremonial Officer will also write to the Harwell Church Rector (for participation and for public address system) and the Harwell Campus Site Manager (Duncan Rogers).

The Secretary will also write to the bugler, bag piper and photographers.

5.3 Possible Flypast

The Ceremonial Officer has received a standard reply from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) stating that they cannot do a flypast. It also states that from 2018 there will be a small charge made for all BBMF aircraft except for the training aircraft. The charge is very likely to be out of the Branch's budget.

5.4 Publicity

The Ceremonial Officer has sent details to the County Membership Support Officer for the County Circular and composed an article which has been sent to the Harwell News.

The Secretary will also send it to the editors of the Chilton Chronicle and Ridgeway Broadsheet and Parish website. He will add details to the Branch Web Site

The Ceremonial Officer will post details on the Harwell parades, Chilton village and Harwell village facebook pages.

The Secretary will compose and put posters up in the local shops and Club during May.

5.5 Timetable

The Secretary has drafted version 1 and it will be distributed shortly.

6. ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members this month on the MAP system and no applications.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

7.1 Archive Boxes in club

Disposal of the membership lists and the new contents list are in hand.

7.2 Lending Minutes to Harwell History Group and Moving to Oxfordshire History Centre

In hand.

7.3 Awards

In hand.

7.4 Branch Web Page

See PAO report.

7.5 Distribution of Branch Minutes and AGM Minutes.

The Secretary thanked all who checked their reports prior to distribution. He distributed the February 2017 Minutes and March 2017 County Circular to Committee Members and put copies in the Club folder. David Marsh has put the minutes on the web site

Minutes and County Circular approximately 54 sheets: £ 2.17

One less copy has been printed due to the change in Committee membership.

Other printing approximately 17 sheets: £ 0.66

Refill of the black cartridge is in hand. The refilled colour cartridge seems faulty (yellow coming out as magenta), the Secretary will check with the supplier. He has donated another pack of 500 sheets of paper.

7.6 2016 AGM MINUTES

In hand.

7.7 Welfare

No enquires this month. The quarterly report to County due beginning April which will be 0 visits and 0 volunteers.

7.8 Soldiers of Oxfordshire (SOFO) Enquiry to Member

No news.

7.9 Letter of Thanks to Club for Free Room Hire

Sent.

8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

CURRENT PAID UP MEMBERSHIP: stands at 121

8.1 Membership Numbers

One member has transferred to Abingdon Branch (which is where they live). They did not inform the Membership Secretary so she enquired with the County Membership Support Officer to find out the situation. The Membership Secretary has also found that a member was not on the list and one of the Life Members was listed twice. All of these anomalies meant that paid up membership was erroneously reported as 123 last month. The Membership Secretary apologised for this.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that accounts stood as follows as of 13th March 2017:

HARWELL BRANCH

Current Account:	£ 310.01
B.F.I. Account	<u>£ 1217.46</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>£ 1527.47</u>

9.1 BFI

The BFI is unchanged from last month

9.2 Membership Fees Income

The Branch has received £204 for memberships which is still not the full amount for the number of members we have. Discussion ensued including:

- The Treasurer said that it is listed on the bank statement as an amount from the Legion with no further details.
- We have 121 members so there should be £242.
- The Treasurer will continue to investigate where the rest is.

9.3 BFI Transfer

The Treasurer has put in a request to transfer £228 from the BFI to the current account to cover outgoings.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Items indicated as “printed” will be filed in the “County Circulars” folder in the Club. Other items can be printed on request.

10.1 March 2016 County Circular (printed and distributed)

Attached documents:

- Libor fines funded Normandy Veterans tour information
- Veterans Gateway update February 2017 (printed)
- Wellbeing Course information
- List of Legion Welfare Activities “What we do”
- Poppy Walk poster (printed) and sponsor form.

10.2 Political Comment by Members

The Public affairs team noticed that a Branch Chairman had expressed opposition to local boundary changes in an on line video as a Legion representative, and issued a reminder including:

“Charity law is clear that no charity can have political purposes, or pursue their charitable objectives by politically partisan means and the Royal charter states that the Legion has no connection, either directly or indirectly, with any political party or organisation; therefore, can I please ask you to remind your branches that members cannot speak on behalf of the Legion on political matters as a matter of priority.”

10.3 Private Site Fundraising Locations Weekly Updates

The fundraisers were scheduled to be outside Halfords Didcot last week.

10.4 Northern Ireland Enquiry and Protest Marches Letter (printed)

Outline of the Legion's position on the enquiries – the Legion is unable to comment as it is a legal matter. The Legion welcomes certain statements the government and MOD have made and must and will support all veterans.

There are some protest marches and parades being planned, members cannot attend in an official Legion capacity and the marches cannot start or finish at Legion properties and Legion symbols cannot be used on publicity.

10.5 Team Brit Update (Motor Racing for injured ex service people)

10.6 Marketing Emails to the Branch Email Address on Branch Website

95 Items since the February meeting. The Secretary proposed that he only retains these for a year.

No Objections.

11. POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER REPORT:

11.1 Poppy Appeal Money Count Thank You Letters

The letters to the Harwellian Club and the Abingdon Poppy Appeal Organiser have been sent.

The Abingdon PAO has arranged for their coin sorter to be modified to sort the new £1 coin and they are obtaining a second one. The Abingdon Branch has now collected over £42,000.

11.2 Remaining Poppy Stock

Sam Hickton the County Fundraiser collected the remaining merchandise, cardboard trays and wreaths to take to County on the day after the February meeting. She also took the foreign coins and notes.

The PAO still has the collecting buckets, lids and seals. He also has seals for “year round” Poppy shaped collecting boxes and will investigate possible locations.

11.3 Change in County Fundraiser

As stated in the County Circular, Ms Hickton has stepped down from the Legion and Gaynor Dingley has been appointed as full time County Fundraiser.

11.4 Poppy Walk Harwellian Club 7th May

The PAO has composed an update to the Poppy Appeal page covering the information in the County Circular and a copy of the poster.

The Baggs Tree Buskers are unable to attend. The Vice Chairman asked if anyone knew of any similar folk group. The Chairman said that the Buskers themselves may know of one.

11.5 Authorisation

This has not been received so the PAO will follow this up with the new County Fundraiser.

11.6 D Day Service Wreaths

Once the authorisation comes through the PAO will be able to order the wreaths. He proposed that he orders the same quantity and type of wreaths as Bridie Spinks got last year.
Agreed by the Committee.

Hazel King has offered to do a bucket collection and help as needed.

The Ceremonial Officer suggested that the PAO should mention the D Day service when chasing up his authorisation in case it is assumed that this can wait until November.

11.7 Harwell Feast Stand

The Poppy Appeal organiser said that he was assuming the Branch is not doing a stand and suggested that we could mention this to the Riders Branch.

Agreed by the Committee.

11.8 Total

No donations since the last meeting:

The total from 1 Oct 2016 to date is £4141.81 (subject to confirmation).

The PAO will ask for up to date statements for this and last year

12. STANDARD BEARER REPORT

The Ceremonial Officer said that the Standard had not been paraded since the last meeting.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

13.1 Home Visit

The President made a visit to a members' home but unfortunately they were in hospital.

13.2 Union Flag Outside Club

The President asked if we should ask the Harwellian Club Committee if we can put the flag and pole up as usual for Feast Day, D Day and Armistice Day. He thought that it probably would be acceptable but it would be polite to ask.

The Ceremonial Officer said that this should not indicate that attendees are returning for refreshments at the Club this year. He and the Secretary had discussed this and decided against paying for refreshments. This is because in previous years we have paid for catering for 30 people and only 10 have turned up. It is not known if any were ex service.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 25th April 2017

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:26 hours.