***Manningtree and District Royal British Legion***

***Minutes of Branch No 3683 Meeting held on 12th November 2013***

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| ***Item*** | ***Opening Address*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***1*** | Jamie gave a short opening address; introducing seven new prospective members: Maj and Mrs Tim Whelan MBE, DCN, Peter Coley, Ken Luxford, Eric Link, Shirley Waite, Amy Pretty and Jose Sanches | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Exhortation*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***2*** | The meeting was opened with the exhortation, and a respectful silence was observed | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***Apologies and Attendance*** |  |
| ***3*** | 17 attended the meeting, with apologies being received from 7 others. There were also 3 guests | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***Minutes*** |  |
| ***4*** | The Minutes of the previous (October 2013) meeting were read and unanimously approved:  Proposed – Sharon Robinson  Seconded – Andy Baker | ***Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Chairman’s Report*** |  |
| ***5*** | In summary Jamie spoke about:   * Poppy Appeal – congratulations to all who were involved and helped, especially Ann. Ann was asked to pass on the Branch’s thanks to all collectors * Remembrance Day – The branch were represented at all local services * Bank A/C – Signatures have to be re-submitted * Events – Can the branch get a quiz team together for 12th December * Manningtree Christmas Market – The branch will have use of two marquees (one each from County and Clacton). Jamie asked for fund raising ideas * Committee members – Seeking a social secretary (pos Sharon R and Jacque B), 2 A Group reps, Welfare rep and 3 extra committee members * Branch Subs – Sharon clarified that this was contrary to the RBL Charter. A monthly raffle will continue | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |

Poppy appeal

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| ***Item*** | ***Vice Chair’s Report*** |  |
| ***8*** | Lee spoke about:   * Honour walk to raise Poppy Appeal funds * Email addresses * 2014 Remembrance Day parade – RBL and local councils will work in conjunction. There seems to be a public wish for a Sunday parade although there will still be a ceremony in Manningtree on ‘the day’ * Newsletter – will be published on the website and be available by e mail | ***Branch***  ***Vice Chairman*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Secretary’s Report*** |  |
| ***9*** | Alan commented on the Mistley Remembrance Day parade – attendees concurred that this year was probably the best attended for a number of years. Anecdotal evidence suggested tat this was the same at both Manningtree and Lawford too. | ***Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Treasures Report*** |  |
| ***10*** | *Ann explained that £40 had been paid for Remembrance day wreaths during the month and that*  ***Income***  Balance B/F £1068.02  ***Total £1068.02***  ***Expenditure***  *Wreaths £40*  ***Current Balance £1028.02*** | ***Branch Treasurer*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Branch Welfare*** |  |
| ***11*** | Jamie Robinson and Andy Robinson are both due hospital operations in December (good luck to both) | ***Branch Welfare Officer*** |

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|  | ***County Welfare Report*** |  |
| ***12*** | NTR | ***County Welfare Officer*** |

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|  | ***A Group*** |  |
| ***13*** | NTR | ***A Group Reps*** |

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|  | ***Parade Marshals Report*** |  |
| ***14*** | Representatives from the local emergency services (fire, police and first responders) and the local branch of St Johns Ambulance have expressed interest in taking part in 2014 commemorative events | ***Parade Marshal*** |
|  | ***Membership Secretary Report*** |  |
| ***15*** | *The membership now stands at 32, with 6 pending. Another month on month increase* | ***Membership Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Social Committee Report*** |  |
| ***16*** | Sharon informed the meeting that:   * £34 raised from tonight’s raffle * Hoping to raise enough internal funds to pay for the 2014 Christmas dinner * The 2014 Christmas dinner is on 14th December at the Crown – 2 courses £18, three courses £20 * The Royal Albert Hall Remembrance service will be on 8th Nov 14. Tickets for the matinee performance will be available on 1st Jul 14 at £25 each. Sharon would like to organise a ‘Manningtree and District’ bus and asked for expressions of interest by the end of November | ***Social Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Press Relations Officer*** |  |
| ***17*** | *NTR* | ***PRO*** |

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|  | ***Poppy Appeal*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***18*** | A big thank you to all those that helped with this year’s collection | ***Ann Watson*** |

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|  | ***AOB*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***19*** | 1. Great War. Andy Baker updated on events for 2014, including:  * RBL to be the Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford lead on 2014 events – local councils would like to support rather than instigate events * Working group – Andy B, Kerry, Jamie, Sharon, Jacque B, Martin, John Hedley (High School), Judy Goodchild and Richard Ling * Focus is to commemorate, not celebrate * 3 Aug 14 – Outdoor multi denominational Drumhead service at Welcome Home Field (Alan Coley gave tacit approval on behalf of the WHF Trust) to include and involve:   + Cadets   + Memorial tree carving   + Poppy planting * Possible lottery funding * 2014 ‘Fun at Furze’ – Branch stall * Permanent memorial (aspiration towards 2018?)  1. Andy B requested information from anyone who may know members of the previous MML branch, which ran from 1927 – 76. Alan Coley mentioned ‘Peter Gant’ 2. Tracy Robinson mentioned that two ladies from E.Bergholt RBL would like to be kept informed of events within the MML branch 3. Sam Robinson made a plaque for display in the Crown and presented it to Julie, the manager. This was very well received. |  |

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|  | ***Kohima Epitaph*** |  |
| ***19*** | The meeting closed at 20.35hrs with the Vice Chairman reading the Kohima Epitaph. A respectful silence was observed | ***Vice Chair*** |

***Jamie Robinson Branch Chairman*** **Alan Saddington** ***Branch Secretary***

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