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

***Minutes of Branch No 3683 Meeting held on 14th January 2014***

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| ***Item*** | ***Opening Address*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***1*** | Jamie gave a short opening address and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Lee for allowing us to us St John’s Hall and explained that as The Crown had closed at New Year, the branch were ‘looking for a new home’ and that initial talks about The Red Lion had been promising | ***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 6 others. There were 2 guests | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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

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|  | ***Chairman’s Report*** |  |
| ***5*** | In summary Jamie spoke about:   * The Crown. See above, Jamie and the branch wished Julie well * He thanked Lee for use of St John’s Hall for this meeting * Bank Account – Ann confirmed that the branch account was opened w/c 6th January * Christmas Market and Dinner – Both events went well, everyone enjoyed the events and funds were raised * Committee Members – Still looking for 2 a Gp reps, Branch Welfare rep and 2 more committee members * A Group – only Sharon will now represent the branch at the next meeting * The Red Lion could be used for the Feb – Dec meetings although no parking is available and there will be a downstairs bar only * County Conference   + RBL is looking to create affiliations with younger members (such as cadets) during and beyond it’s centenary   + £6M lottery funding available for WW1 themed events. Bids for £10Kor under will be looked at favourably if accompanied by good business case | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |
| ***Item*** | ***Vice Chair’s Report*** |  |
| ***6*** | Lee spoke about:   * Honour walk to raise Poppy Appeal funds – possible date 13th July (day after Tendring Show), anyone wishing to take part/help speak to Lee * Newsletter – to be sent to Andy for editing before publishing. Aiming for a quarterly publication | ***Branch***  ***Vice Chairman*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Secretary’s Report*** |  |
| ***7*** | Alan spoke briefly about The Crown and wished Julie well. Jamie confirmed that a card had been sent to Julie and attempts would be made to stay in touch if possible | ***Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Treasures Report*** |  |
| ***8*** | *Ann confirmed that the Branch account was now open and that Sam had raised £300 from his tattoo (£270 received, £30 to come) – excellent effort*  ***Income***  Balance B/F £1028.02  Received £300.00  *Expenditure* N/A  ***Current Balance £1328.02*** | ***Branch Treasurer*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Branch Welfare*** |  |
| ***9*** | Andy Robinson has had his operation, all went well | ***Branch Welfare Officer*** |

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|  | ***County Welfare Report*** |  |
| ***10*** | NTR | ***County Welfare Officer*** |

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|  | ***A Group*** |  |
| ***11*** | Next meeting 18th Jan 2014, Sharon will attend | ***A Group Reps*** |

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|  | ***Parade Marshals Report*** |  |
| ***12*** | Outline plans discussed for event on 8th June. Manningtree would be first choice for the venue, with a preferred time of 11:00. The possibility of inviting the East Bergholt branch was mentioned but not discussed in detail | ***Parade Marshal*** |
|  | ***Membership Secretary Report*** |  |
| ***13*** | *The membership now stands at 45, with 5 pending. Another month on month increase* | ***Membership Secretary*** |
|  | ***Social Committee Report*** |  |
| ***14*** | Sharon spoke about:   * Christmas meal – went very well. The idea of a less formal event in 2014 was well received * £114 was raised toward the 2014 social fund was raised - £59 from the Christmas meal raffle and £55 from the December raffle * £115.76 was raised at the Christmas market * 2014 Festival of Remembrance on 8th Nov 14. Tickets for the matinee performance will be available on 1st Jul 14 at £25 each. Kings Coaches had provided the most competitive quote, with a 34 seater costing £540 and a 49/54seater slightly more. This will make the total cost of travel and admittance approx £35 – 40. All those who are interested please tell Sharon, monies must be paid by the June meeting and can be paid in instalments * The concept of a themed Poppy dance to launch the 2014 Poppy appeal (approx. 25th Oct) was discussed and well received * The social group would be meeting in Feb * Skinners Arms fund raising event on 25th January – WW1 themed * A play about and with soldiers injured in Afghanistan will be showing at the Mercury from 27 - 31 May and said that if enough were interested, a branch trip could be organised | ***Social Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Press Relations Officer*** |  |
| ***15*** | * *All meetings would now be advertised in the local newspaper* * *There had been good press coverage of the Christmas market* | ***PRO*** |

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|  | ***Poppy Appeal*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***16*** | NTR |  |

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|  | ***AOB*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***17*** | * Lee congratulated Jamie on his Pride of Tendring award for his work with the RBL. Branch members unanimously congratulated and applauded him * The WW1 committee would next meet late Jan/early Feb * There was some discussion about the recent online publication of soldiers WW1 diaries * Andy and Jacque Baker offered one week at their (Coral Bay, Cyprus) timeshare in 2015 as a raffle prize. This is an ’open’ week to allow for the winner’s choice * Next meeting Tuesday 11th February 2014 at The Red Lion |  |

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|  | ***Kohima Epitaph*** |  |
| ***18*** | The meeting closed at 20.30hrs 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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