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

***Minutes of Branch No 3683 Meeting held on 11th March 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 The Red Lion for allowing us to us to use the facilities | ***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*** | 15 attended the meeting (including one guest), with apologies being received from 10 others. | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***Minutes*** |  |
| ***4*** | The Minutes of the previous (February 2014) meeting were read and unanimously approved:  Proposed – Tony Floyd  Seconded – Ann Watson | ***Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Chairman’s Report*** |  |
| ***5*** | In summary Jamie spoke about:   * Guest. Welcome to Philip Cunningham, Manningtree History and Museum Group * Commonwealth Flag. Jamie, Sharon, Kerry and Andy Robinson attended the flag raising ceremony in Tendring on 10th March. If the ceremony becomes a regular event the branch will ask that a small ceremonial act is included in future years * Fundraising and Ceremonial Events   + 8th June – Dday event. Paperwork for road closures has been submitted for a service at the Manningtree war memorial   + 14th June – Fun at Furze (Jamie and Sharon will be unable to attend due to a clash of events – Tumbledown Dinner)   + 21st June – 1940s coffee morning with military band and swing band at Foundry Court   + 5th July – Skinnersfest. This clashes with the Colchester Tattoo and may need to be rearranged   + Jul/Aug – Legionfest. TBC * 3rd August – WW1 commemoration. Drumhead service on Welcome Home field at approx 18:00, followed by a small event at Mistley Swan basin and a candle lit vigil on Welcome Home field until approx 23:59.Manningtree High School will design and print the service sheet * Committee Meetings. Committee meetings have been moved to the Wednesday directly after the branch meeting. There will be two more meetings at Foundry Court, other meetings will be held at St Johns hall * Branch Choir. The first meeting will be on 13th March at 19:30 at Foundry Court * Affiliations. Manningtree Army Cadets and 1334 Sqn Manningtree Air Cadets are now affiliated to the branch. A (non CRB checked) liaison person is needed. It should be noted that 6 weeks notice is needed for the groups to help with events such as Poppy collections * Committee Members. Lee and Ann will be the branch A Gp reps. Two more committee members are still required | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |
| ***Item*** | ***Vice Chair’s Report*** |  |
| ***6*** | Lee spoke about:   * Ardleigh Car Boot Sale. Date TBC, branch pitch will be free. Lee will collect donations and store in St Johns Hall * Christmas Draw. £0.50p per square from April, draw will be on 9th December | ***Branch***  ***Vice Chairman*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Secretary’s Report*** |  |
| ***7*** | * Confirmed that the 75 years of Army bomb disposal celebration at Wimbish will be open to former RE BDO’s and RAOC/RLC ATO’s * Dedication of the memorial to seafarers lost in conflict at sea – Orwell Quay, Ipswich at 15:00 Sat 12th April | ***Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Treasures Report*** |  |
| ***8*** | ***Income***  Balance B/F £1,758.58  Received £72.00  *Expenditure* N/A  ***Current Balance £1,830.58*** | ***Branch Treasurer*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Branch Welfare*** |  |
| ***9*** | * Julie (ex landlady of The Crown) had been visited, she is getting better * County are going to run welfare and befriending courses * Food bank referrals are now being taken (Andy B has forms – 2 so far). Donations can be made at Lawford and Mistley churches, the Coop or through Andy Baker | ***Branch Welfare Officer*** |

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

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|  | ***A Group*** |  |
| ***11*** | Andy and Lee will represent the branch | ***A Group Reps*** |

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|  | ***Parade Marshals Report*** |  |
| ***12*** | NTR | ***Parade Marshal*** |
|  | ***Membership Secretary Report*** |  |
| ***13*** | The idea of family membership was discussed | ***Membership Secretary*** |
|  | ***Social Committee Report*** |  |
| ***14*** | Sharon spoke about:   * Fun at Furze. Although she and Jamie cannot attend, they will help to prepare * Poppy Dance. Bob Nadan and Tony Floyd will help to organise | ***Social Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Press Relations Officer*** |  |
| ***15*** | *NTR* | ***PRO*** |

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|  | ***Poppy Appeal*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***16*** | * The 2013 fund now stands at £6986.47, although the Essex total is down year on year, the Manningtree total is up * Buy Pins!!!!!! |  |

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|  | ***AOB*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***17*** | * Andy Baker spoke about the WW1 committee meeting held on 7th March:   + Permission to use Welcome Home field in August   + Poppy petal drop   + Tree carving – cost may be prohibitive   + Poppy deed sowing   + Research with Philip Cunningham and MHS   + Funding – Sources are being investigated * Some discussion was had regarding the next meeting clashing with a Red Lion darts evening * Steve Sadler’s father (ex Fleet Air Arm) made a donation of £30 toward a branch standard and accoutrements. Wilf would like to join and attend meetings but is currently too unwell. A thank you letter has now been sent * Bob Nadn mentioned that stewards are needed for the Colchester Tattoo on 5/6 July (preferably ex military) * Next meeting Tuesday 8th April 2014 at The Red Lion |  |

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|  | ***Kohima Epitaph*** |  |
| ***18*** | The meeting closed at 20.45hrs with the Vice Chairman reading the Kohima Epitaph. A respectful silence was observed | ***Chair*** |

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

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