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

***Minutes of Branch No 3683 Meeting held on 13th January 2015***

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| ***Item*** | ***Opening Address*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***1*** | Jamie welcomed everyone to the meeting including three new potential members. | ***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*** | 16 members of the Branch attended the meeting, with apologies being received from 9 others. | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***Minutes*** |  |
| ***4*** | The Minutes of the last (November 2014) meeting were read out.  Proposed: Ann Watson  Seconded: Dave Brown  Agreed, the only change is that the date for the Poppy Picnic is not confirmed as yet. | ***Deputy Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Chairman’s Report*** |  |
| ***5*** | Christmas Lights Switch On  The Branch attended this event and held a tombola which raised over £80, well done to all involved.  Merchandise  A lot of the merchandise we have been selling throughout the year has been procured by myself and Sharon through recruiting so we may have to also start thinking of purchasing our own, unfortunately they don’t do a sale or return system, Jamie suggested that a ringfenced amount of £250 for Legion in the Community (LIC).  County Conference  Both Myself and Sharon attended this on 10th January, still waiting for the minutes to be published, however as a Branch we were awarded the Nigel Bird Shield which is presented to the Branch who over the year have recruited most members without a Club, we have 41 members signed up which gave us an increase of 169%.  Branch Gazebo  It looks like myself and Sharon will be handing over the County Marquee this year, so the Branch will have to purchase it’s own. More information will be available after the next County meeting at the end of this month.  Foundry Court  There will now be a charge of £5 per hour to hire this venue, but we will not be charged to set up and clear away.  BFI Account  The Branch will in due course, as Sharon has mentioned in the past, apply for a BFI but not for some time yet.  Parade Marshals Course  A course will be held in March at a venue to be confirmed, Jamie and Andy Robinson will be attending.  Branch Management Course  A course will be held at Chelmsford RBL on 14th & 15th February 2015, Andy Baker will be attending.  Poppy Tin Thefts  Two people have pleaded guilty to the theft of 19 Poppy Tins in Essex, and have been remanded in custody for sentencing on 2nd February 2015.  Ceremonial Committee  This sub Committee will meet early next week provided all are available. | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |
| ***Item*** | ***Vice Chair’s Report*** |  |
| ***6*** | N/A | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Secretary’s Report*** |  |
| ***7*** | Membership Renewal Card Deadline – All membership cards that have not been paid for and collected by members must be returned by 31st January along with a completed MS6, failure to return unused cards will result in the Branch being charged membership for each card held.  All membership applications should now be completed on the new ford,  Training – Branch Management Course (see above). | ***Deputy Branch Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Treasurers Report*** |  |
| ***8*** | Monies Received:  Red Lion Tin: £25  Rotary: £50  Membership Fee: £30  Monies Out:  County Conference: £12  Total: **£1,536.78**  (£274.39 ringfenced for WW1) | ***Branch Treasurer*** |

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| ***Item*** | ***Branch Welfare*** |  |
| ***9*** | N/A | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***County Welfare Report*** |  |
| ***10*** | N/A | ***County Welfare Officer*** |

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|  | ***A Group*** |  |
| ***11*** | N/A | ***A Group Reps*** |
|  | ***Parade Marshals Report*** |  |
| ***12*** | N/A | ***Parade Marshal*** |
|  | ***Membership Secretary Report*** |  |
| ***13*** | 3 new members tonight. The Branch has had an enquiry from an 85 year old ex Royal Marine, Jamie and Sharon are going to meet him next week. | ***Membership Secretary*** |
|  | ***Events Committee Report*** |  |
| ***14*** | Festival of Remembrance  A great time was had at the Festival of Remembrance and this year there has already been many enquiries so Sharon will book a bigger coach.  NMA  Sharon is making enquiries for this years trip, a list is to go out next month, but the general consensus is to go at a weekend but not a bank holiday.  Christmas Party  A very poor turnout but a great night nonetheless, Micky has agreed to do the Poppy Picnic Free of Charge.  Next Month we have the Shanti Singers.  Last year we took the youngest 3 Branch Members to the Royal Albert Hall, this year Sharon would like to do something for the cadet groups, and would like to donate something to each Unit.  £100 per Cadet unit was proposed, Unanimous. | ***Events Secretary*** |

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|  | ***Press Relations Officer*** |  |
| ***15*** | N/A | ***Branch Chairman*** |

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|  | ***Poppy Appeal*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***16*** | A further £360 had been raised so the total so far stands at **£8,468.00.**  One lady had raised £300 making Poppies and selling them throughout the year.  Jamie spoke about a Team being put together to work under Ann.  Co-op have given 2 weeks permission to collect this coming year, with concentrations being at the railway station also.  Jamie has drawn up a Certificate of Appreciation to be presented to both the Army Cadets and the Air cadets for funds raised, they will be presented by Jamie on Tuesday 20th Jan (Army) and Wednesday 21st Jan (Air) at their meetings at 7.30pm on each evening. | ***PAO*** |

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|  | ***AOB*** | ***By Whom*** |
| ***17*** | No longer an item on the agenda! But Steve Sadler said that the Ink Jet cartridges had been collected and recycled. Well done to Dave Mitchell for that. |  |

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|  | ***Kohima Epitaph*** |  |
| ***18*** | The meeting closed at 20:35 with the Chairman reading the Kohima Epitaph | ***Branch***  ***Chairman*** |

***Jamie Robinson Branch Chairman*** ***Jenine Collier Deputy*** ***Branch Secretary***

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