

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 7th August 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway (IG) Chairman, Ian Preston (IP) V. Chairman, Julie Karmazyn (JAK) Treasurer, Avril Mitchell (AM) Secretary, Joe Karmazyn (JK), Tim Russell (TR), Tracey Merritt (TM), Sue Chewter (SC), Diane Matthews (DM), Mark Taylor (MT), and 6 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Alex Dawes, Andy Dawes, Brian Dawes, Garry Griffiths

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by Ian Greenway

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: DM , Seconded: TR
2. Matters Arising: None
3. Treasurer's Report: for the period ending 7th Aug 2025

O/Bal	£2676.00cr
Receipts	£ 728.00 (m/ship fees and dance bookings)
Payments	£ 104.40 (branch Flags for flagpole)
C/Bal	£3299.60cr

Commitment of £300.00 for DJ, Poppy dance

The funding request from Basingstoke ACF CoD has been discussed with our County MEO and MEM. It has been confirmed that the RBL rules do not consider this a Welfare spend and it is therefore not a proper use of Branch funds. Tony has been advised in writing 15th July.

Our Year-End accounts have been prepared and signed off today and will be sent to HO.

4. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 4.1. Basing Carnival had changeable weather, but IG, JK and TR held the fort and raised £107.45. Hook Village Show was very quiet and Chris Beadle, AM and TR manned the stall raising £60.65. I will review our format for attending these events. Suggestions welcomed.
 - 4.2. Other receipts were Cash4Clothes disposal £39.60, Books and DVD's £21.81 and a donation of £30 from John Davey.
 - 4.3. I have placed adverts in Basinga and Hook's Media channels for more Volunteers for Poppy Appeal. We have hopes of two weeks inside Tesco Chineham, which would require a lot more shifts to be covered.
 - 4.4. Our totals YTD are: OB cash £13,821.27, Ctless £7,504.50 + QR £638.50 = £21964.27 and Hook cash £10,392.59, Ctless £14,018.63 + QR £167.00 = £24,578.22, total £46,542.49
5. Membership Report: Our current total is 476, which is the highest it has been for many years. The new card entry system is proving to be worthwhile.
6. Club Report:
 - 6.1. There is an open day here on Saturday with BBQ, kid's games, skittles, hoping to encourage new members
 - 6.2. There will be a Quiz on 6th Sept and Football and Rugby broadcast in the bar.
 - 6.3. We have secured a 5% discount rate for loyalty card members.
7. Band Report:
 - 7.1. The Summer season has now ended and we will be focusing on recruitment and training.
 - 7.2. The Band are continuing to assist the Cadets at Basingstoke ACF CoD and are hopeful of future collaboration and joint support at events.
 - 7.3. The social sites are gaining followers
 - 7.4. Upcoming events, 15th Aug VJ event in Basingstoke WM Park, 19th Oct Gabardine Bar Poppy Launch TBC, 8th Nov GRNC + 9th Nov Old Basing Remembrance events.
 - 7.5. The band attended Hale Carnival, Whitchurch Fete and many recent Funerals.

8. Correspondence:
 - The August Link, Central News, Membership Enews
 - Membership Fees increase reminder
 - An invitation to the Mayor's Civic Service 11th October
 - An invitation to attend the Mayor's Remembrance Service 11th November
 - An RBL competition to design a Christmas Card, which would be sold on Poppy Shop
 - Election forms for Hampshire County RBL Chair and Vice-Chair.
9. Events and fund raising:
 - 9.1. The Poppy Launch dinner is almost sold-out. Tracey had received enquiries whether we could allow Dance-only tickets. We agreed we will have 30. AM to produce tickets, sell at £10 each.
10. A.O.B:
 - 10.1. AM handed three RBL Branch Flags to TM for safekeeping.
 - 10.2. IG asked Rick Bourne (RB) whether the Parish Council have agreed to get us Union Flags, Rick says this is still in discussion.
 - 10.3. The Women's Section are holding a Tea Dance on 6th September 2-4pm. All welcome.
 - 10.4. RB informed us the search for a new vicar is progressing more quickly than expected.
 - 10.5. RB confirmed the Church are discussing our request for the laying-up of a branch and a WS standard.
 - 10.6. RB confirmed the Church have discussed our request to add Michael Crotty to the War Memorial in St Mary's. It will be passed to the PC for further discussion.
 - 10.7. RB has a contact who may give a talk to our meeting, about old Basing and the Church
 - 10.8. AM had a copy of the membership listing, a lot of members are no longer opted-in to receive emails from us. The members present here tonight were told how they could change the setting if wished, by emailing AM and she can then forward this to HO.
 - 10.9. DM asked whether the Police will attend our Remembrance parade this year. TR, all we can do is ask, as usual, and hope.
 - 10.10. JK asked whether there would be a new vicar in place in time for our Poppy Dinner, they could be invited to be our Padre and give a blessing – RB, It is unlikely.
 - 10.11. DM asked whether we have booked a VIP for the Poppy Dinner. IG, not at this time. JK suggested we invite last year's Saluting Officer from RAF Odiham, we will discuss in committee.

The next meeting is a Social and will be on 4th September at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman