



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Patron H.M the Queen

Registered Charity Number 219279

Amesbury Branch (BR2562)

MINUTES OF AMESBURY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 18th October 2018

Present

President	Mr. T Pryor-Jones
Chairman	Mr Reg Hughes
Vice Chairman/Treasurer/ M Secretary	Lt. Col. G Southwell
Secretary	Mr. P Smith
Area Poppy Organizer	Mr. G Jones
Welfare Officer	Mr. J Swindlehurst
Branch Member	Mrs. J Swindlehurst
Branch Member	Mr. M Pattenden
Branch Member	Col. P Tustin
Branch Member	Mrs. F Hedge
Branch Member	Mrs. P Bishop
Branch Member	Mr. T Bebbington
Branch Member	Chief Tech. H Griffiths
Branch Member	Mr. R Prentice
Branch Member	Mr. R Allen
Branch Member	Mrs. P Allen
County Vice Chairman	Mr. M Challinor

Apologies

Branch Member	Fr. D A'Court
Branch Member	Maj. N Estlick
Branch Member	Mr. J Kirkcaldy
Branch Member	Mrs. P Pryor-Jones
Branch Member	Mrs. P Jones
Branch Member	Mrs. J Stiven
Branch Member	Mr. C Burden
Branch Member	Mrs. B Bebbington

1. Exhortation

The Exhortation was said by the Chairman and a respectful silence was observed.

2. Presidents Welcoming Comments

The President welcomed all present including Mike Challinor (County Vice Chairman) and thanked everyone for attending the AGM and their support over the last year, in the coming year he would be looking to recruit new members via the press & look for more of our members to assist in the running of the branch.

The President then made a presentation to Branch Member and Poppy Appeal Organiser "Glyn Jones" for his outstanding dedication & achievement in regard to the Branch and also the Poppy Appeal.

3. Minutes of Previous AGM

The Minutes of the last Branch AGM held on "Thursday 19th October 2017" were reviewed, no amendments were proposed.

Vote "For" was unanimous,

Decision – **Carried**

The Minutes as recorded were accepted

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised he would like to thank the Officers of the branch for the assistance they had provided him over the past year, he then advised he would like to see more of the membership attending Branch Meetings. The Chairman then explained that due to lack of support the Curry Lunch after the Remembrance parade had been cancelled but hoped that the support would be there to enable the event in 2019.

The Chairman closed his address by asking all to remember at this year's Remembrance parade we are celebrating 100 years since Armistice day and the end of WW1.

5. Branch Secretary's Report

- The Branch held 2 general meetings since the last AGM, the reduction in meetings in the last two years has not adversely affected our membership or turnout.
- The Branch held / attended the following events:
 - A Curry Lunch post Remembrance Service
 - A "Thank you" Cocktail Party
 - Amesbury Carnival

6. Area Poppy Organizer's Report

- All boxes and collection tubes are ready to go and stored in the shed, each Distributor has a list attached, they must be out by Saturday 27th Oct.
- All wreaths are ready to go, invoices prepared and will be sent out early October. Boscombe Down requirements have also been met, they have included 2 new contributors (Babcock and Boeing) to their ceremony, and they are to be delivered nearer the time.
- Large event poppies with names of the fallen will again be put up around the town, Myself, Andy Derry and Tim Bebbington will erect them on Sunday morning, 21st Oct.
- The giant "Lest we forget" poppy letters, kindly stored by the RAF at JARTS, will be installed on the railings, by the main roundabout, outside the dentists, by JARTS on Wednesday 24th Oct.
- There will be 3 poppy themed creations produced by the junior schools of the town, using recycled wreath poppies, led by the Mayor, Margaret Strange, culminating in having them displayed around the town during the Poppy campaign with a prize awarded for the best.
- Amesbury Town Council have kindly agreed for us to use their shop in Flower Lane to house a Poppy "Pop-up" shop, I have recruited a willing volunteer from the shop to manage a display of all the available merchandise, for the duration of the campaign. Cllr Andy Williams has produced an "A" board free of charge, advertising the stall, which will sit on the pavement outside.
- We have been quite successful this year in recruiting new blood amongst our volunteers, and are very grateful for their support, for many this will be the first time supporting this campaign, but we must not be complacent, and need to continue to encourage new supporters.
- **Last year** at this briefing, after all AYR boxes had been counted, the closing balance for the campaign was **£21,309.15**, which was an all time record.
- **This year** (2017/18), our final score, officially confirmed by Aylesbury is **£23,830.52....in increase of £2,521.....truly outstanding!**

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Branch Membership now stands at 96, up from 90 this time last year

8. Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Branch Accounts

The RBL Financial Year ends on 30th September each year. To allow time for the Legion's annual accounts to be completed, all branches are required to report on their accounts 3 months before that. The reporting period this year was 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018.

The reports are independently examined then passed to County for onward transmission to RBL HQ, in advance of the branch AGMs which have to be held after the end of the Financial Year. This is why the AGMs take place in October. One of the tasks of the AGM is to approve the accounts.

Our Treasurer Gerry Southwell provided the below report.

Treasurer's report to Amesbury Branch for AGM 18th October 2018.

1. RBL Rules require accounts to be closed as at 30th June annually and then independently examined: this took place on 2nd September. A copy of the A/c has been passed to the Wiltshire Membership Support Officer for onward transmission to HQ RBL. Please note that RBL rules require the accounts to be approved by the Branch at the AGM.
2. The opening balance on the A/c was £2,916.18 and the closing balance £2,279.39
3. The opening balance on the BFI A/c was £11,497.46 and the closing balance £11,726.59. Interest gained was £229.13
4. RBL HQ has changed the format of the income and expenditure accounts this year and these are now available in Excel. Branch assets are no longer shown in the accounts but we have stock on hand (drinks) totalling £96.73 and the value of our shed is now £2,295.60.
5. The Branch held 2 social events during the year: the Remembrance Day Curry Lunch and the drinks party at the end of the Poppy Appeal. In addition we had a talk from Charles Newbould and the surplus from these 3 events, after the annual donation to The Dunkirk Club of £100.00 and a donation to the Poppy Appeal of £250.00, was £472.68. I would remind members that the only income to the Branch, other than from private donations, is raised at social events.
6. Members should be aware that the payment of the annual subscription to HQ RBL is a personal responsibility and we do not use the branch fund for this purpose. Members are therefore requested to promptly answer their renewal letters and if possible arrange to pay by Standing Order or Bank transfer. There is of course, no branch subscription.
7. This is my last report to you as Treasurer and I would like to thank the Branch Executive for their support during my latest 2 year stint in the job. My successor is Huw Griffiths and I shall shortly be handing the account over to him.

G. Southwell, Branch Treasurer, 18th October 2018

Vote "For" was unanimous,

Decision –**Carried**

The Accounts as recorded were accepted.

9. Electing the “Officers” of the Branch

Election of President

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
The post has a 3-year duration & was filled by Tony Pryor-Jones in 2016.				Elected

Election of Chairman

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Reg Hughes	Tony Pryor-Jones	Mike Pattenden	16	Elected

Election of Vice – Chairman

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Gerry Southwell	Reg Hughes	Peter Tustin	16	Elected

Election of Secretary

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
No Volunteer			No Vote	No Decision

Election of Treasurer

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Huw Griffiths	Jan Swindlehurst	John Swindlehurst	16	Elected

10. Electing the Branch Committee for the ensuing year

Election of Welfare Officer

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Reg Hughes	Tony Pryor-Jones	Freda Hedge	16	Elected

Election of Membership Secretary

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Huw Griffiths	Pauline Jones	Glyn Jones	16	Elected

Election of Parade Coordinator

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Reg Prentice	Glyn Jones	John Swindlehurst	16	Elected

Area Poppy Organizer

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Glynn Jones	No Vote, County Appointment			

Area Poppy Coordinator

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
	No Vote, County Appointment			

Election of Area Poppy Treasurer

Name	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
				No Vote, County Appointment

Property Member

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Tony Pryor-Jones	Huw Griffiths	Pan Bishop	16	Elected

11. Appointment of the Branch Standard Bearer.

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
John Raymond	Tony Pryor-Jones	Huw Griffiths	16	Elected

12. Appointment of the Assistant Standard Bearer.

Nominees	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes received	Decision
Tony Pryor-Jones	Jan Swindlehurst	John Raymond	16	Elected

As there was no volunteer to take on the post of "Secretary", Mike Challinor advised on the two options open to the branch:

- Call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), gain a volunteer for "Secretary" and continue as is.
- Call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) if no volunteer for "Secretary" vote on becoming a "County Supported Branch" which:
 - Can be reversed
 - County takes on the role of Treasurer and moves branch funds to County.
 - Requires two branch representatives to:
 - Act as point of contact for communication
 - Undertake branch administration, for instance arrange & minute meetings

Mike Challinor then advised a minimum notice period of 2 weeks was required before calling an EGM.

Before the meeting broke for refreshments, the Secretary asked all to reconsider volunteering for the vacant role, post break a request was made for a volunteer, none was forthcoming, at this point the Chairman called a EGM, date to be confirmed.

Tim Bebbington asked that when correspondence went out to the membership, they were asked if they want to continue as a standard branch, or as a county supported branch, this was discussed but discounted as if we do not get a volunteer for Secretary, we will be pushed down the route of county supported branch.

13. AOB

Remembrance Parade & Service

- After last year's trial by changing where the parade forms up, the parade will again assemble on the pavement at the end of Salisbury St, and around the corner towards the bus stops, in the order of march from the right. The PM will take command as per usual, and there is still no change to the format or timings once we march off. Traffic control will be carried out by civilian volunteers at the end of Salisbury St, Flower Lane, and Queensferry Bridge, using Road closed signs as appropriate.
- The branch has a new volunteer Standard Bearer this year as both Paul and Tony will be unavailable, and I understand Tony has been coaching Mr. John Raymond in the routine expected of him, thanks Ken, you are a life saver!
- Cllr Andy Williams is organising the traffic volunteers for us, 4-5 required with Hi-Viz vests and 2 "Road Closed" signs, he will also see to the placing and retrieval of the saluting dais.

- We have a Parade Marshall and a Detachment Commander already nominated by 57Bty, 32 Regt. RA. I met them last month for an initial brief and walk and talk through the Programme
- Once again, after the success of the readers last year, I again have approached the headmaster of Stonehenge School, and he has nominated his Head Boy and Girl to read out the names at the Remembrance service, one has confirmed, and am waiting for the parents of the other to respond.
- I have put an article in the October issue of the Stonehenge trader, detailing our plans for this year with both the Poppy appeal and Remembrance Parade.
- So far, all other aspects of the Parade and service are on track, and not causing concern (yet!)

Poppy Appeal - Thankyou Party

- Friday 16th Nov is the date of the “thank you” party, which is all arranged and will take place in the “Wyndham Hall”
- Pauline Jones is preparing the finger buffet & has food handling certificate & experience.

Curry Lunch

Freda Hedge advised she was very disappointed that the curry lunch had been cancelled, this was discussed & the hope is that next year there will be more demand from the membership and the event can go ahead.

Pub Quiz

Mike Pattenden confirmed that “The Dunkirk Club” would be holding a Quiz on Sat 10th Nov at 19:30, it is open to all & the money raised will go to the Amesbury RBL.

Deputy Poppy Appeal Organiser

Glyn Jones advised all that the branch poppy appeal had grown over the past few years, it is now a huge amount of work & he is a single point of failure, he also advised that he had been invited on behalf of the branch to the parade at the “Royal Albert Hall”, but has had to decline due to no stand in.

Glyn then asked all present for someone to assist him but no one volunteered.

- The Chairman advised this would be added to the Agenda for the EGM.
- Glyn was advised by Mike Challinor that Fi Dobson may be able to assist in finding a volunteer.

Access Help

Reg Prentice asked if anyone had come across an organization / charity called “Access Help” that apparently help ex-servicemen back to work, they were collecting money in Salisbury by the Maltings, but did not look right, no one had come across this organization.

Buffet at Branch Meetings

The Treasurer advised that at every meeting food was being wasted, the cost of the buffet is £5.95 per head, he asked those present if there was a need for it & a discussion took place.

Tony Pryor Jones proposed that in the future a buffet is not provided at Branch meetings, this was seconded by Glyn Jones, a vote was taken.

Vote “For” proposal was unanimous

Decision –**Carried**

Dates for Diary

The following were confirmed:

2019

- Thursday 18th April & Thursday 19th September – Branch Meetings
- Thursday 17th October - AGM
- Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Sunday parade & Curry Lunch
- Thursday 17th January - Poppy Appeal wash-up
- Poppy Appeal start-up – date TBC at Poppy Appeal wash-up

Secretary / Standard Bearer

Glyn Jones thanked Paul Smith for his years of service as both Secretary & Standard Bearer, a round of applause was initiated by all present.

14. Chairman's objective's & closing remark's

The Chairman advised that the work branch members put in was appreciated & noticed by all, he thanked Pauline Jones for taking on the buffet for the "Thank-you" party, hoped that all goes well with this years poppy appeal & in the coming year we have more attendance at meeting plus add to the membership, the Chairman finished by thanking him for his support.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at **21:09hrs**

Proposed:- Seconded:-

Voting:-

- For
- Against
- Abstentions

Approved:- Date:-