

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 9th May 2024 at 8pm

Present: Ian Greenway – Chairman, Julie Yeates – Treasurer, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Tracey Merritt, Sue Chewter + 9 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Tim Russell, Mark Taylor, Diane Matthews, Rick Bourne, Dave Godfrey.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by our chairman who reminded us that Pat Butler had recently passed away. Andy Dawes carried our branch standard at the funeral this week.

The minutes of the previous meeting:

Circulated and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: Andy Dawes

Matters Arising: None

1. Chairman's Report: Ian will be speaking at national annual conference this weekend regarding motions 7 + 8, membership fee increases, and will propose making membership free, saving the cost of Novacraft managing our memberships process.
2. Ian will be raiding the QM stores for items for the D-Day 80 event. We will have enough space in our marquees to house plenty of stall and displays. Ian will be bringing a cold war display and some firearms.
3. The Club will be running events on the day also.

Treasurer's Report: for the period 4th April to 9th May 2024

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|----------|--------------------------|
| O/Bal | £2348.94 cr |
| Payments | £ 55.00 cheques 001538+9 |
| C/Bal | £2443.94 cr |

BFI 1st Jan to 31st Mar 2024

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| O/Bal | £40.49 cr, quarterly interest .15p, C/Bal £40.64 cr |
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BPT 1st Jan to 31st Mar 2024

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| O/Bal | £15807.76 cr |
| Receipt | £ 576.46 Balance of rent Q1 25/12/23 |
| Receipt | £ 670.29 Partial rent Q2 25/3/24 – 23/6/24 |
| C/Bal | £17117.59 cr |

Poppy Appeal Report:

1. Tim apologised for not being able to attend this evening due to being at a County event.
2. Brian Dawes had handed in a AYR Poppy containing £51.98, Thank You!
3. Basing Carnival is soon and we have a stall booked, Tim will not be available so we need volunteers to man the stall, also a fun game for the public as they have a splat the rat already, and can we decide what to use the stall for – Poppy Appeal, Recruiting or fundraising.
4. Tim is awaiting RAF Odiham to reply to his request for tactical comms for 8th June.
5. Rick Bourne has a donation for us for the golf day, will report the total in June.
6. Our Totals: Old Basing £13102.79 + £8068.50 contactless, Hook £6638.11 + £5087.00 contactless. Grand total of £32,896.40

Membership Report:

We have hit a record 450 members, but with 24 unpaid for the period up to end of May. We do have 3 new joiners though which is good news. Of the previous 12 that were overdue, 5 have paid after being politely reminded.

Club Report:

1. Tracey is monitoring the outgoings to try and make some economies.
2. The Flagpole is back up but the finial needs adding.
3. The Quiz in April was a profitable night, the best so far. The next quiz will be either 7th or 8th July dependent on whether England make it to the finals of the European cup.

Band Report:

1. Currently practising for the upcoming May to July season. This includes fortnightly drills practise led by Drum Major Russ Jordan
2. The AGM was held 7th April. Gifts were handed out to those retiring band members who missed the Awards Night in March.
 - 2.1. The new constitution was discussed, agreed and signed by Band President Rick Bourne.
 - 2.2. There was a discussion about how to celebrate the band's 40th anniversary next year. This may include a concert, possibly a trip ti Ypres with HLOWACF Band, also commemorating the 80 years since VE Day.
3. Goals and Objectives are to re-establish streamlining of admin and structure and to gain more members, grow the band's image and capabilities.
4. Upcoming events are: 19th May Basingstoke Festival of Transport, 8th June Sherfield Fete, 15th June Old Basing Carnival, 21st June Basingstoke Festival, 23rd June St Mary's Church Summer Festival, 29th June Milestones in the morning and Farnham Carnival in the afternoon, 6th July Hale Carnival.

Correspondence:

The County Newsletter, E-newsletter and Central newsletter.

A notification that King Charles III has offered us his patronage.

Events and fund raising:

1. We could have some old-fashioned kids games such as throwing sandbags at pictures of Adolf Hitler. We will liaise with Tracey to get bulk sweets from cash and carry for giveaways.

A.O.B:

1. Gary Griffiths asked whether the Band could share the gazebo at Old Basing Carnival. This was agreed, they can have a table for recruiting.
2. Alex Dawes confirmed the Band are able to perform at the Black-Tie Dinner in October, we need to discuss and confirm what we wish them to do.
3. Pat Brace asked whether we have a fear of any protest or backlash against us when we hold our D-Day 80 event. Ian thinks not, we are a village location with not so many issues.
4. John Davy asked if we know anyone with classic cars, to invite the to the OB Carnival.
5. Steve Stork asked whether we actively support Armed Forces Day, we do not as it comes under Basingstoke, although we do attend the Flag Raising.
6. Andy Dawes asked for a progress update on our plans for the BPT money. We are still trying to get the list from HO of what we can use the money for.
 - 6.1. We would still like to have a veteran's breakfast or similar here, this is a legitimate use of the funds.
7. Andy Dawes is attending the French Freedom Flame ceremony in Portsmouth on 14th May, Tim will also be there.
8. Joe Karmazyn asked whether we should have an event meeting before the next branch meeting, we will confirm if required.
9. The ACF will be available for 8th June but we need to contact Kyle Grimsey quickly if we want their help.
10. Gary Griffiths requested a list of branch and Women's Section committee contacts in order to keep us apprised of their events.
11. Alex and Gary gave their apologies for the June meeting.

The next meeting will be on 6th June at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman