



**Royal British Legion
Basingstoke, Overton & District Branch – BR1842
Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 14th October 2025, 19.30 pm, Basingstoke Labour Club

MINUTES

Branch Officers Present

John Davies (JD) – PoC 1 Chair
Malcolm Brunsdon (MB) – PoC 2

Members Present

Anne Davey (AD)
Richard Davey (RD)
Chris Davies (CD) – Meeting Secretary
Rosena Hillier (RH)
Panchabir Rai (PR)
Dudley Wall (DW)
Tom Wall (TW)

Non-Voting Guest

Steve Day (SD)

AGENDA

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| Item 1. | Exhortation |
| Item 2 | Welcome & Apologies |
| Item 3 | Update on Branch activities and future |
| Item 4 | Adoption of Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGM – 15th October 2024• SGM – 18th March 2025 |
| Item 5 | Adoption of Accounts |
| Item 6 | Election of Points of Contact |
| Item 7 | Conference Motions |
| Item 8 | Appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• County Conference Delegate• National Conference Delegate• Standard Bearer |
| Item 9 | County Committee |
| Item 10 | Date of next meetings / AGM |
| Item 11 | Closure & Kohima |



1. Exhortation

The meeting Chair invited the previous Branch President to open the meeting. DW read the exhortation.

2. Welcome & Apologies:

JD welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. It was agreed that CD would act as secretary for the meeting

No apologies were recorded

3. Update on Branch activities and future.

JD advised the meeting that, despite going into County Support, both PoCs had remained active representing the Branch and our beneficiaries. As for the future, our aim remains to reinvigorate the Branch and return to full Branch status. However, to date there has not been any volunteers coming forward to assume the responsibility.

Key point was that it would serve no purpose to re-establish a committee unless there was a real opportunity to make the Branch a thriving concern.

The update is at Annex A.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM and SGM had been circulated to all members and copies were available in the meeting. No comments were received.

- AGM – 15th Oct 24. Proposed MB Seconded DW that minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried unanimously.
- SGM – 18th Mar 25. Proposed TW Seconded DW that minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried unanimously

The minutes were signed as a true record and will be published.

5. Adoption of Annual Accounts

MB reported that the accounts were in a healthy state and had been independently examined by the County treasurer without comment. The annual accounts had been circulated to all members before the meeting but were also available for those in attendance.

MB explained that the monies were now held in a restricted fund at County. They were still available for use by the Branch but were now managed by the County Treasurer.

MB confirmed that, as agreed at the SGM, the Social Fund had been closed and all monies (£592.84) donated to the County Welfare Fund.

JD updated members on recent changes. Monies, although managed at County would be held in a Branch Funds Initiative account. This ensures that the monies can accrue interest to the benefit of both the Branch and beneficiaries. Account figures follow:

Branch funds	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	Increase/Decrease in Funds
In Bank	£2,779.21	£0	-£2,779.21
County	£0	£1,991.91	£1,991.91



Income	Amount
Membership fees	£253
Legacies	£21
Other Income	£83
Total Income	£357

Expenditure	Amount
Ceremonial	£290.40
Conferences and Meetings	£419.37
Printing, Stationery and Postage	£178.97
Other Expenditure	£255.54
Total Expenditure	£1,144.28

Reconciliation	
Opening Balance	£2779.21
Income	£357.00
Expenditure	-£1,144.28
Closing Balance	£1,991.93

Proposed MB, Seconded PR that the accounts be accepted. Carried unanimously

6. Election of Branch Points of Contact

JD reiterated that whilst ever the Branch remained in County Support, then there was no need to elect a committee but the Branch must have two PoCs. The following persons were elected unanimously to continue as Branch PoCs

- PoC 1 – Johnn Davies. Proposed DW Seconded TW
- PoC 2 – Malcolm Brunson. Proposed RH Seconded TW

7. Conference Motions

There were no conference motions proposed by Branch members



8. Branch Appointments

8.1 Conference Delegates. Members were asked if they wished to be considered as delegates for the upcoming conferences. All declined. The following Branch delegates were agreed unanimously:

- County Conference Delegate. Malcolm Brunson – Proposed JD Seconded DW
- National Conference Delegate. John Davies – Proposed MB Seconded DW

8.2 Standard Bearer. David Barton has moved away from the area and is now standard bearer for Havant Branch. He has been covering Basingstoke too but that is neither sustainable nor cost effective. We have a volunteer Sea Cadet who is well known to the Branch as he represents the cadets at most commemorative events. He has already attended County sponsored standard bearer training.

- Branch Standard Bearer. Harvey Moore – Proposed JD Seconded RH. Carried unanimously

Secs Note. Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided not to proceed with Harvey's appointment. This was due to ongoing differences between cadet and RBL dress regulations.

8.3 Remembrancetide. Although not an appointment as such, JD advised that whilst he was Chair, it had been agreed policy that RBL representation (wreath laying) be offered to members rather than Branch Officers. It had once again been offered but without any take-up. Consequently, wreaths would be laid by:

- John Davies – 9th November
- Malcolm Brunson – 11th November

Sec's note: Following subsequent planning meeting with the Council, RD was invited, and agreed, to read the Kohima Epitaph.

9. County Committee

Members made aware that there will be vacancies on the County Committee if anyone wished to volunteer. DW sought clarification on the different county roles but after discussion was content that his role as the 'Link' editor was a supportive rather than an active role.

JD is currently on County Committee as CTO and will be seeking re-election. Proposed DW Seconded MB that the Branch support JD's candidature as either committee member or vice-chair. Carried unanimously.

10. AOB

Although not on the agenda, given that this was the first AGM as a CSB. Points discussed:

10.1 Nepalese Community. PR raised the involvement of the local Nepalese community in support of the Poppy Appeal. It is anticipated that this will be continued. He will seek to generate more engagement with the RBL Branch too.

10.2 Future Committee. SD has to renew membership but would be interested in returning to his former committee role.

10.3 Branch Fees. TW queried annual fees. JD confirmed that they had recently risen to £22. MB advised that the Branch no longer levied a Branch fee as members receive a reduced service whilst we are in Count Support.



11. Date of Next AGM

The AGM is provisionally scheduled for 13th October 2026 at 19.30 pm

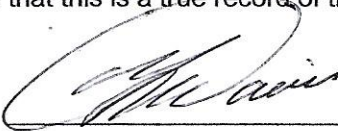
15. Closing Ceremony

There being no further business, DW concluded with the Closing Ceremony and the Kohima Epitaph.

The meeting closed at 20.15 pm

Certified that this is a true record of the meeting

Signed.



J C DAVIES
POC 1

Date: 13 OCTOBER 2026



PoC's Report

Future of the Branch

Members will be aware that the Branch applied to become a 'County Supported Branch', following the SGM in March this year. This was finally approved by County on 6th May. Since then, your Branch Points of Contact (PoC) have been myself and Malcolm Brunsdon, in accordance with the decision made at the SGM. We have continued to use the previously designated 'Chair' and 'Treasurer's' email but that has now changed in preparation for the coming year and we now have the designations PoC1 and PoC2.

Although the Branch has not met since the SGM, your two PoCs have been busy. We have been working with the healthcare providers and local veteran charities to ensure that the needs of our beneficiaries are met. RBL continues to be represented on the steering group of the 'Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust' and was able to facilitate required specialist treatment for a member beneficiary, in cooperation with The Basingstoke Veterans Club and Basingstoke hospital. Additionally, we continue to be active, cooperating (and where appropriate leading) with the mayor's office on all matters relating to remembrance and commemorative events.

We are currently busy planning Remembrance and Armistice services and shortly we will begin work on Holocaust Day which is celebrated in January

Our affiliation with the Sea Cadets continues to bear fruit and we now have a cadet who has volunteered to become the Branch Standard Bearer. This is wholly in line with the terms of affiliation where we mutually support the aims and objectives of both organisations. It is also consistent with SDR 25 and the County Plan which seeks to strengthen RBL/Cadet partnerships.

The rules changes relating to the composition of Branch Committees that were voted in at Conference, have now been incorporated into the Members Handbook. We now only need 5 committee members to regain full Branch status. To date though, we have not had sufficient volunteers to formulate a full and functioning committee. As a consequence, we will be required to remain as a County Supported Branch for the foreseeable future. Should this change during the year, we will call a further SGM to determine the future of the Branch. We call on our members to consider how they can best support the RBL. With a few willing volunteers, Basingstoke, Overton & District Branch can thrive again. It is important that we do not return to the days when the only attendees at meetings and events were a few committee members and the odd one or two volunteer members.

John Davies
PoC 1

