**Present:**

Jean Eldridge (JE) Vice Chair Malcolm Spinks (MS) Treasurer Rob Lovesey (RL) Secretary

**Member:**

Pete Eldridge (PE) BCS & PAO Mike Chamberlain (MC) (On-Line) Max Heron (MH)

Derek Bradshaw (DB) Sue Fowler (SF) Brian Barrett (BB)

Yona Barrett (YB)

**Guest:**

Lebo Nyoni (LN) Oxfordshire MEO (On-Line)

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| **Serial** | **Discussion/Decision** | **Action** |
|  | 1. **Meeting Opened.** The Chairman opened AGM meeting at 2000hrs in the Millstream Centre Benson. |  |
|  | 1. **Exhortation.** The Exhortation was spoken by the Vice Chair, in the absence of the Chair. |  |
|  | 1. **Apologies**.    1. Lynda Atkins    2. Fiona Lovesey    3. Dave Cooper    4. Robert “Wozza” Warren    5. Andy Halliwell |  |
|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  The minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on the 10 Oct 23 were reviewed by members of the committee, passed as a true copy, and signed by the Chairman and Secretary.  **Proposed**: Max Heron  **Seconded:** Jean Eldridge  The vote was carried unanimously |  |
|  | **Chair’s Report**  ***The Chair was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency at work (she is a Theatre Nurse/Manager) – the Secretary read the following prepared statement.***  The Chair stated that although the Branch has been reasonably quiet since the last meeting, branch members attended the RAF Benson Familys Day, thank you to Pete, Jean, Malcolm and Carol, for helping with the stall.  The County Conference requirements means that both the County Chair and Vice Chair roles are due for re-election. It has been announced that the County Chair will be standing down despite the Branch nomination for the role. The Chair stated that she will be elected unopposed to the role of County Vice Chair following the 01 Feb 25. This means that under the terms of the appointment the role means that the appointee cannot hold a voting role on any other RBL Branch. This means from 01 Feb 25 the Branch Chair will be required to step down. Branch nominations for the position are requested to ensure that the Branch remains compliant.  The Treasurer, Malcolm Spinks has announced also that he will be standing down. The Chair took this opportunity to call for a vote of appreciation for the work he has done since being in the role.  Proposed: Fiona Lovesey  Seconded: Derek Bradshaw  The vote was carried unanimously.  Despite all the turmoil in the Branch, the raison d'etre for our being continues. Later this month will see the start of the 2024 Poppy Appeal and looking forward to trying to beat last year’s Branch total. The Chair thanked everyone in advance for all the hard work and support of the Branch Membership for the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Parade  The County Conference will soon be upon us, and we need to look at the calling notice, which gives the Branch the opportunity to:   * put motions to the Conference and National Conference if passed, are there any issues or improvements which we as a Branch could influence the RBL. * Nominate Branch delegates for County Conference. * Put forward any Nominations for the next county conference organisation committee   The Chair urged the Branch Members to support these elements are they develop across this meeting.  Finally, the Chair said that she looked forward to working with everyone until she is required to step down and wished those members taking Office good luck and continued success. |  |
|  | **Treasurers Report- Annual Accounts**  The Treasurer reported that:  **Account 2021 2022 2023 2024**  Current Account Closed Closed Closed Closed  Branch Account £711.48 £1701.48 £1748.03 £1498.03  Welfare Fund £100.00 £100.00 £0 £0  Petty Cash £276.00 £28.60 £28.60 £17.60  Benson & District BFI £2126.45  **Total Assets as at: 09 Oct 24**  £1088.08 £1830.08 £1776.63 £3642.08  **Proposed:** Malcolm Spinks  **Seconded:** Jean Elderidge  The vote was carried unanimously.  The Treasurer informed the meeting that the Branch had received a generous legacy, initially the legacy was destined for the RBL Cholsey branch form Mr Buckingham however as that Branch had closed the County Treasurer, made arrangements with the National Legacies Department that the next nearest Branch being Benson and District should be the beneficiaries.  As mentioned, Malcolm announced that we would be stepping down as Branch Treasurer. |  |
|  | **New Benson and District RBL Branch BR0730 2024 to 2025 Committee**.  The following were nominated to stand on the Committee in the posts detailed:  **President Benson and District RBL Branch** - Lynda Atkins  **Chairman – Fiona Lovesey** – in post until 01 Feb 25 Pete Eldridge will assume the role following the County Conference on that date.  **Vice Chairman** – Brian Barrett  **Treasurer** – Jean Eldridge  **Secretary** – Robert Lovesey  **Standard Bearer** – David Cooper  **Committee Member** – Fiona Lovesey post 01 Feb 25  **Committee Member** – Malcolm Spinks  **Committee Member** – Max Heron  **Committee Member** – Derek Bradshaw  **Committee Member** – Sue Fowler  **Committee Member** – Yona Barrett  **Appointments** – the following positions were appointed:  **Branch Community Coordinator** – Peter Eldridge  **Poppy Appeal Organiser** – Peter Eldridge  **Deputy Poppy Appeal Member** – Jean Eldridge  **Proposed:** Rob Lovesey  **Seconded:** Malcolm Spinks  The vote was carried unanimously.  The MS1 was duly signed by all the new Committee members. |  |
|  | 1. **Branch Plan 2024 - 2027**   The Secretary announced that the Branch Plan will be updated following the release of the County Plan after the County Conference on 01 Feb 25. |  |
|  | 1. **Nomination to National Office** 2. The Branch has received a request to nominate Branch Member Lynda Atkins and current RBL National Vice Chair for the position of National Chair. The Branch fully endorses this application and will forward the application paperwork when released. 3. **Proposed:** Rob Lovesey 4. **Seconded:** Yona Barrett   The vote was carried unanimously. |  |
|  | 1. **Nomination to Oxfordshire County Chair and Vice Chair** 2. The meeting was informed that the re-election of the County Chair and Vice Chair roles were now due. As Branch Members Pete Eldridge (current County Chair) and Fiona Lovesey (County Vice Chair) must be nominated to stand for Office. Following an email vote by Branch Members on the 09 Aug 24 seeking nomination of both candidates on behalf of the Branch. It is proposed that Pete Eldridge be nominated for the role of County Chair and Fiona Lovesey for the role of County Vice Chair. 3. **Proposed**: Rob Lovesey 4. **Seconded**: Derek Bradshaw   The vote was carried unanimously.   1. **Note:** Following his nomination Pete Eldridge has since withdrawn from re-election. |  |
|  | 1. **County Conference – Motions to be Submitted** 2. The Branch Membership was called upon to ascertain if there were any motions required to be submitted to the County Conference. |  |
|  | 1. **County Conference – Nomination for County Committee** 2. The Branch Membership was called upon if anyone was willing to be nominated for a County Committee role. Anyone wishing to take up an appointment on the County Committee to contact the Branch Secretary who will pass on the nomination to County. At the meeting there were no nominations. |  |
|  | 1. **County Conference – Nomination for the County Sub Committee (Oxfordshire County Conference Planning)** 2. The Branch Membership was called upon if anyone was willing to be nominated for a County Sub-Committee (County Conference) role, in assisting the County Committee in organising the 2026 Annual Conty Conference. There was one nomination to represent the Branch on this Sub-Committee, Yona Barrett. 3. **Proposed:** Rob Lovesey 4. **Seconded:** Derek Bradshaw   The vote was carried unanimously. |  |
|  | 1. **County Conference – Branch Delegation** 2. The Branch as per the requirements of the Membership Handbook (MHB) and the County Conference Calling Notice must nominate a Branch delegate in advance of the Conference. As a Compliant Branch the delegate can cast the vote for all issues raised during the Conference. Jean Elderidge requested to represent the Branch at the 100th County Conference on 01 Feb 25, 3. Proposed: Rob Lovesey 4. Seconded: Brian Barrett   The vote was carried unanimously. |  |
|  | 1. **Any Other Business**   There were no points raised for Any Other Business. |  |
|  | **Meeting Closed**  The meeting closed at 2025hrs. |  |

F LOVESEY R LOVESEY

Chairman Secretary

Date Date

**The Benson and District Royal British Legion Committee Regularly Meets on the Second Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 2000hrs. The AGM is held on the Second Wednesday of October. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the Benson Millstream Day Centre unless otherwise notified.**

**Upcoming meetings are:**

**Committee Meeting – Wednesday 08 January 2025 – Millstream Day Centre**

**Committee Meeting – Wednesday 09 April 2025 – Millstream Day Centre**

**Committee Meeting – Wednesday 09 July 2025 – Millstream Day Centre**

**Committee Meeting – Wednesday 08 October 2025 – Millstream Day Centre**

**AGM Meeting – Wednesday 08 October 2025 – Millstream Day Centre**