



**Royal British Legion
Basingstoke, Overton & District Branch**

Branch Meeting

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 19.00 pm,
Basingstoke Labour Club

MINUTES

Present		Apologies
John Davies (JD)	Branch PoC1	Wayne Stent (Basingstoke PAO) Members: Steve Day Tom Wall Ann Wall Olive Wall
Malcolm Blunsdon (MB)	Branch PoC2	
Dudley Wall (DW)	Member	
Stuart Humphries (SH)	Member	
Laura Wares (LW)	Standard Bearer / Member	

AGENDA

- Item 1. Exhortation**
- Item 2 Apologies**
- Item 3 PoC's Address**
- Item 4 Finance Report – PoC2**
- Item 5 Future of the Branch**
- Item 6 New Branch Standard**
- Item 7 Annual Conference**
 - a. 2026 Conference motions**
 - b. Conference Committee elections**
- Item 8 Future events - AFD**
- Item 9 AOB**
- Item 10 Date of next Meeting**
- Item 11 Closure & Kohima**



1 Exhortation

As he was the previous President, DW was invited to open the meeting with the exhortation.

2 Apologies

Apologies received were recorded

3. PoC's Address

JD explained that the agenda had been designed to progress business matters with each item being dependent on the ones coming before it.

4. Finance Report

MB briefed:

4.1 The funds remain healthy with a balance of £2015.84 but there is likely to be expenditure that could reduce that amount significantly. Since becoming a CSB, our income has been £150 for Branch fees that were levied before our decision to remove such fees. Our expenditure has been £126.09.

4.2 At the recommendation of the Membership Council member, we had removed the Branch fee when we went to CSB status. On reflection, we consider that we should reinstate that fee so that we can continue to support our members. This was agreed unanimously.

Action: MB to notify Membership Services that we wish to reinstate the £3 joining and £3 admin fees, before the 29th May deadline.

5 Future of the Branch

JD advised that he had hoped that there would be sufficient interest to reinstate the Branch to full Branch status. To do this, we needed a full committee comprising Chair, Sec, Treasurer and two other committee members. He added that this would require someone else to assume Chair responsibilities because, now that he is the County Vice Chair, he is no longer allowed to hold the Branch chair post.

We considered that we could get a compliant committee but, before doing so we need to generate more support and we need more members to be active. We discussed the challenges and opportunities that would have to be addressed for the Branch to become viable. There was a stated resolve to ensure the Branch became stable and enduring.

It was agreed unanimously that we remain a CSB for the foreseeable future but those members who are willing to be on the committee meet separately to plan how to generate interest.

Action: JD to coordinate meetings with those willing to serve.



6 New Branch Standard

Having confirmed financial viability (Item 4) and intent to remain active as a CSB with an intent to return to full Branch status (Item 5), we discussed replacing the Branch Standard. The current standard has been accidentally damaged by a chemical spillage. Membership Services have confirmed that this would be covered by insurance but the policy excess is greater than the cost of a new Standard.

It would not be financially responsible to purchase a new Standard without positive outcomes in respect of finances and Branch sustainability.

It was decided to purchase a new Standard. We discussed the price differences between the 3 RBL approved producers and agreed unanimously that Newton and Newton, although slightly more expensive, would be our preferred provider.

We discussed what to do with the current standard. Given that it is damaged, and we already have a Standard laid up in St Michael's Church, Basingstoke, we decided to donate the Standard to County to be used for training purposes.

The new Standard will have to be dedicated before it can be used.

DW has a brand new (unused) pole which he is donating to the Branch. This will be used for official events and the current one will be used for training.

Actions.

MB to arrange purchase of a new Standard and Gold Tassels from N&N

JD to arrange dedication service with Basingstoke Church.

7 Annual Conference

Annual Conference is 8-10 May. Conference motions had been circulated to members before the meeting. We discussed each of the 6 motions and agreed unanimously that we would support them all.

One comment was raised in respect of Motion 5. Whilst we agree with mandatory training, we considered that it should be bi-annual rather than annual. To be discussed at Conference if the opportunity arises.

Consideration was given in respect to the Conference Committee elections. None of the 4 candidates were well known to most of those at the meeting. It was noted that CVs were very similar. It was agreed that JD, as Branch delegate, would vote on the day.

Action: JD to vote in accord with Branch wishes

8 Future Events

The next significant events would be related to AFD. There will be local events at Milestones and the National event at Aldershot. Value of participation in both was discussed. It was agreed unanimously that, if available and needed, the Branch Standard should be paraded at the local events. LW will attend the Basingstoke Flag Raising on Mon 22nd Jun supported by all available members. MB and LW will coordinate activity for Basingstoke based events on 27th June. JD will attend Aldershot as County Vice Chair.



Actions:

**MB to be PoC for all local events relating to AFD
JD to attend Aldershot as a County Officer**

9 AOB

SH stated a willingness to serve on the committee but, not as an officer. He also acknowledged the importance of training and agreed to improve his knowledge by registering on 'Discover' and take appropriate courses.

10 Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be the AGM on 13th October. However, if the opportunity to reform the Branch arises, an SGM may be called.

11 Closure of the Meeting

The business of the meeting being concluded at 20.45hours, JD closed the meeting and DW read the Kohima Epitaph.

Signed by: _____
Chair

Name: _____

Dated: _____

