

## Branch Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

### Agenda items

1. Welcome and Exhortation [IC]
2. Apologies [IC]
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (below) and matters arising [IC]
4. Chairman's report [IC]
5. Secretary's report [GC]
6. Treasurer's report [JN]
7. Membership/Recruitment [AH]
8. Branch Community Support (BCS) [JC]
9. Socials & Trips reports [LC]
10. Poppy Appeal report [IC]
11. Guest Speaker – Seamus Brennan
12. AOB

### Minutes from the previous meeting

<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	<b>Time</b>	1900 to 2100
<b>Location</b>	Page Community Association	<b>Meeting type</b>	Branch
<b>Chair</b>	Ian Campbell	<b>Note taker</b>	Glen Cooper

### Item 1. Welcome and Exhortation

Initials	Discussion
IC	Exhortation was read by IC and we remembered John Slowley.

### Item 2. Apologies

Initials	Discussion
IC	Apologies were read out from Janet Crook and Steve Bancroft, Madeleine Bills, Diane Roberts, Jeanette Ware and Peter Gregory, Gordon Wells, Ben Hawkins

### Item 3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Initials	Discussion
IC	No matters arising.

### Item 4. Chairman's Report

Initials	Discussion
IC	IC introduced Seamus as MEO (Membership Engagement Officer), who was going to deliver a presentation on an overview of the RBL and offer a chance to ask questions about the Legion, its' direction etc.
IC	IC invited those interested in joining county committee to speak to Seamus Brennan or Jackie Robertson
IC	IC welcomed Lynn Chilcott as social secretary, plans for 2023 are underway
IC	IC notified membership of the relaunch of our printed newsletter; this was last distributed in January 2020 and put on hold due to the pandemic. This will help spread the message of what we do and how people can get involved.
IC	IC raised the need to come up with a plan to spend branch funds, and a plan will be put to the committee at the next meeting.
IC	IC discussed the branch building; progress has not yet been made with the council, the promised meeting and report from the council has not been received. If no resolution, IC raised that the branch will continue renting a space such as Page Community Association and consider renting a shop frontage to deliver some of our aims.
IC	IC stated that for branch meetings, the room is now booked until 10pm, to reduce pressure at the end of meetings should people wish to stay longer

#### Item 5. Secretary's Report

Initials	Discussion
GC	GC introduced himself as the new secretary for the branch
GC	GC stated the MS1 for the year has been submitted to the MEO, making us compliant for another year with an almost-full committee
GC	County Conference is on Saturday 21 January at Severn Vale School; Aileen Hulin is our delegate and will be speaking to our motion, but we would like more members to attend. If you are interested in going then please speak to Aileen, and we will help arrange transport. There is a hog roast!
GC	<p>Annual Conference is happening in Torquay in May 2023; IC has list of those wanting to attend and is arranging accommodation and transport. Please see Ian if interested in attending. We will hopefully have another motion on the conference floor.</p> <p>As part of annual conference, members have the opportunity to ask a panel; this can cover a range of topics and can be submitted in advance to <a href="mailto:annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk">annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk</a> or asked on the day, these can be added to the next newsletter.</p>
GC	GC reminded members that if they wish to stand as a Trustee, nominations must be submitted to the RBL by 13 January 2023. This role involves leading the RBL and being accountable for everything the RBL does, ensuring it is well-run, fulfils its' charitable aims and complies with all its' obligations.

#### Item 6. Treasurer's Report

Initials	Discussion
JN	The branch account funds stand at £6421.56. Paperwork has been obtained to close the other branch account, which currently has £0 in it. The paperwork for this will be given to Seamus Brennan.

#### Item 7. Membership/Recruitment Report

Initials	Discussion
AH	John Slowley has passed away, he has been a member for a long time, all invited to funeral; 9 January 13:45, Westerleigh in the small chapel.
AH	AH highlighted we have had lots of poorly people over Christmas period and she has been supporting those she has been in contact with
AH	AH highlighted we have new attendees tonight who we welcome, and have 2 new members since our last meeting
AH	AH stated she has been to visit a member who is undergoing respite in a care home today, who will return home and be well enough to attend meetings today in due course
AH	AH highlighted the president of Gloucestershire County Women's section of the RBL passed away on 23/12/22 and the search for a new president is underway, she will be missed.

#### Item 8. BCS Report

Initials	Discussion
JC	JC stated that there are 3 veterans currently being supported in our caseload; 2 telephone buddies and 1 who is receiving home visits; she is looking for volunteers to support
JC	Branch breakfast at Lamb in Mangotsfield is taking place tomorrow 7/1/23 and currently 16 are attending; we have a new veteran coming tomorrow who is not yet a member but we are hoping to give them a warm welcome

#### Item 9. Socials and Trips Report

Initials	Discussion
IC	IC highlighted the rescheduled Birmingham International Tattoo will take place on 12 February 2023. This started at 2pm; a coach will depart Page Community Association at 10:30 with arrival time at the venue of 1pm. The coach will return for 7pm. IC will receive tickets in the post for the event and bring these on the day.
IC	IC reminded members about the Battlefields tour taking place in September 2023 and invited interested members to come and see him after the meeting.
IC	IC thanks LC/JN for bringing food to each meeting; IC requested that those who want food make a donation of £2, to be able to keep these things going. The tin will be at the table.

#### Item 10. Poppy Appeal Report

Initials	
IC	IC thanked volunteers for their help over the last year; deputies will have letters to give to shops, schools etc. soon thanking them for their contribution
IC	IC highlighted a social event will be put on for all Poppy Appeal volunteers in 2023
IC	IC raised this year's campaign is being launched with a deputies meeting at the beginning of February

#### Item 11. Any other business (AOB)

Initials	
IC	IC asked the attendees if there was any other business and the meeting was closed. IC handed over to Seamus Brennan who delivered his presentation on the RBL and its' functions.

**Meeting ended at 2100hrs**

## Notes

- Date of the next meeting – 3 February 2023.

## Key dates for 2022/ 2023

**Branch meetings/socials – First Friday of the month at 7pm**

**Branch Committee meetings – Third Wednesday of the month**

**Branch breakfasts – First Saturday of the month at 10am**