



**WEST DEREHAM BRANCH
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
BR 3689**

President: Peter Starling
Chairman: Fred Lucas

Minutes of a Meeting held in the Village Hall on Sunday 9 June 2019 at 12.00 pm

Members (11):

Peter Starling (PS)	- President
Fred Lucas (FL)	- Chairman
Claire Cann (CC)	
Nick Cann (NC)	- Secretary
Mary Darton (MD)	
Simon Comben (SC)	
Ian Dixon (ID)	
Tom Foy (TF)	- Standard Bearer
Pam Walker (PW)	(Scouts duty, late arrival)
Jack Walker (JW)	- Vice Chairman (Scouts duty, late arrival)
Claire Williams (CW)	

Minutes

1. Fred Lucas, Chairman, opened the West Dereham Branch Meeting. The words of the fourth verse of Robert Laurence Binyon's poem: 'For the Fallen' were read out:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Apologies for absence were received from: Pam & David Bullas, Alexander Cann, Barbara Clark, Peter Darton, Heather Foy, Richard French, Lorraine Hunt, Doug & Judith Lawson, Fran & Mike McMenemy, Judy & Laurence Moon, Alice Warby (15).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held 10 March 2019. The minutes of the meeting held 10 March had been circulated earlier. There were no requests for amendments. The Chairman asked for these minutes to be accepted as a true record. This was proposed by CC, seconded by MD and approved unanimously. The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes. TF confirmed that the Ypres Scroll relating to Branch attendance in Ypres for GP 90 had been added to the Branch Standard and no monies were owed.

4. Secretary's Report. (i) The RBL's Annual Conference took place on 17-19 May in Bournemouth. In due course, minutes would be circulated. NC said he had not applied to attend this event and wouldn't in the future. But he would be happy to submit any request from a branch member wishing to be a delegate next year, should one be forthcoming. He confirmed his continued presence at the Norfolk County AGM in February annually. (ii) The 75th Anniversary of D Day took place on 6th June 2019. This was the day that NC & CC were returning to Portsmouth from Cherbourg. They had witnessed the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire) rehearsing for their involvement in Normandy. This included a Dakota carrying 12 parachutists from 16 Air Assault Brigade recreating the 1944 air drop, at Sannerville in Normandy, plus an escorting Spitfire. Simultaneously, a Spitfire and Hurricane were involved in fly pasts at Portsmouth. The drive to Cherbourg took longer than usual due to the many WW2 military vehicles on the roads. (iii) NC confirmed that Branch membership now stood at 32. (iv) The branch report for

the Annual Parish Meeting, held in the VH on 24 April, was made available to members present. (v) NC said he now held 3 certificates presented to the Branch which would be displayed in the 'Memorial Corner' of the VH in due course.

5. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer was not present to report. NC said the bank balance reported on at the last meeting by Lorraine stood at £1,283.11 and, to the best of his knowledge, this remained the same.

6. Community Support (welfare). Richard French was not present. There were no welfare matters to report.

7. Future Activities. (i) On 20 June, an HQ RBL Norfolk County seminar would be held at Barn Ruche, Watton. NC advised he was in Wales and was unable to attend. There were no volunteers. (ii) The Royal Norfolk Show was taking place at Easton on 26-27 June. NC, CC and BC confirmed their attendance on Day 2 when TF would be on parade with the Standard for the Closing Ceremony. (iii) An event would be held in the VH on Sunday 29 June, to celebrate Armed Forces Day. (After note: The planned event in the Village Hall on 29 June to celebrate Armed Forces Day did not take place.)

8. Next Meeting. The next Branch meeting would be held on Sunday 8th September 2019 in the Village Hall at 12.00 noon.

9. Any Other Business. (i) PS told members that, following the death of his wife, Jean, he had received a letter of condolence from John Boisson, the erstwhile Chairman of Norfolk County RBL. It was a very touching letter which he had been pleased to receive. (ii) TF reported that he had carried the New Zealand Standard on ANZAC Day at Norwich Cathedral on 28 April. He planned to attend the Norfolk County RBL Re-dedication Service on 20 July at East Dereham but was uncertain which Standard he would be carrying. And TF was uncertain whether he would be attending the RBL Race Day at Newmarket's July Course on Saturday 10 August with the Branch Standard. In case he did, members authorised his attendance with the Standard at this event. (iii) TF said he had provided a re-write of the Remembrance Sunday Church Service for St Andrew's Church in order that the protocols might follow standard operating procedures. (iv) It was suggested that the West Dereham Branch might form an affiliation with the Downham Market Army Cadets Standard Bearers. (v) As for the last meeting (10 March) once again the location of the Branch's metal 'Tommy' in the VH was discussed. It had been agreed unanimously that the best place for this to reside permanently was in the Branch 'corner' where the memorial plaque to the Village fallen in two World Wars resided. Evidently, a VH user – Crea8 – had complained about this being a health and safety hazard and consequently it had been moved into store. It was proposed that a letter be written to the new Management Committee of the VH pointing out this was a 'Memorial Hall' and it's original purpose should not be over-looked. Crea8 should not have the right to move 'Tommy' and, in future, access to this corner of the VH could easily be blocked off whenever they were using the hall. Two members of the Branch (ID and JW) then recovered 'Tommy' from the store and put him in his rightful place.

10. Closure. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.45 pm.

(After note. Finance. Income: Lunch payments amounted to £28 (8 persons @ £3.50); the raffle raised £38; a donation of £10 was received from MD; another donor (anon) gave £0.50. Left-over food was bought by CC @ £13.00 (4 x sarnies @ £2.50, 1 x crisps @ £2, loose tomatoes @ £1). In the honesty box for wine drunk was £48.00. Total receipts amounted to £137.50. Expenditure: wine purchased at cost from Tesco was £36.00 (6 bottles @ £6) and the Waitrose bill was £67.65. Total expenditure was £103.65. The net profit made was £33.85 (137.50 – 103.65).

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Fred Lucas, Chairman

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date