

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

WAR MEMORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING ON 14th DECEMBER 2017

Present: Neil Beavan (RBL), Bill Chantler (RBL & TDRA) Canon Rev Lindsay Hammond, Maj. Alan O'Hagan & Fred Walker. The Town Clerk Phil Burgess was in attendance.

1. **Site Meeting.** Members met at the War Memorial to view the condition of the lettering and the current positioning of the named bricks.

The meeting re-convened at the Town Hall

2. **Apologies for Absence.** The Mayor Cllr Justin Nelson.
3. **Appointment of Chairman.** Phil Burgess was elected in this role.
4. **Cleaning of the Monument.** Two quotations had been received in respect of cleaning for the monument. It had been suggested that black lettering should be applied to the names on the monument to increase their prominence. However, one contractor quoting for the cleaning work had recommended that this should not be undertaken. Members agreed that the cleaning itself should be undertaken and a later decision taken as to whether the black lettering would be required. The cleaning was likely to restore clarity of the names, particularly those on the steps of the monument. Members were in favour of accepting the quote from Burslem as it was less expensive and displayed a good knowledge of the procedures involved. The work would be ordered by the Town Clerk (subject to council agreement) to take place no earlier than the spring so that the memorial would be at it's best for the WW1 centenary.
5. **Siting of commemorative bricks.** Neil Beavan pointed out that these bricks were not restricted to members of the Royal British Legion and cited the example of Flo Holdstock who had lost 5 brothers in conflict and did much to fund raise for the RBL. Families with names on the war memorial had been canvassed and had no objection to the current siting of the bricks at the foot of the memorial closest to the High Street. The current position of the RBL was that the bricks should not be moved, however, there were some objectors within the RBL. Lindsay Hammond asked that the on-going qualification for the awarding of a brick should be considered. Fred Walker and Alan O'Hagan both felt that the war memorial should be restricted exclusively to the war dead. Neither had specific objections to the bricks per se but the siting was a major issue. Neil Beavan initially proposed that the existing bricks should remain in place and any additional bricks should be housed within the green towards the pavement side. A counter-proposal was made by Fred Walker that the current bricks could remain in place until a new commemorative brick was awarded; at which point there would be a rededication of all the bricks at a site within the war memorial green which would be agreed by this committee. A plaque would also be installed at the new site which explained the significance of the bricks. The committee agreed to this counter-proposal.
6. **Memorial Book.** Major O'Hagan suggested the introduction of a memorial book at the RBL to remember former members in the anniversary month of their passing. This was a matter for internal consideration at the RBL.

7. **War Memorial at St Mildred's.** Lindsay Hammond advised that as a consequence of the re-ordering of the church, the North Door may be re-opened. This would necessitate removal of the war memorial. In view of the fact that the church war memorial is of wider community interest, he asked if the war memorial committee would be willing to be involved in discussions about the form and siting of any new memorial. This would also provide the opportunity to incorporate more names on the memorial to bring it in line with the High Street memorial. At present, only the first world war names were commemorated. The committee agreed.

8. **Recommendations to committee.**
 - a) That the commemorative bricks should remain in position until a further brick is awarded. The new position for all bricks would be agreed by this committee (ideally well in advance of the centenary).
 - b) That the Burslem quotation should be accepted for cleaning the War memorial in the spring. A decision to be taken thereafter on whether to pick out the name lettering in black.
 - c) That this committee should advise on the re-positioning of the St Mildred's war memorial when this arises.

9. **Next Meeting** To be arranged in March 2018

Meeting Closed at 4.55 p.m.