

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE

WAR MEMORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING ON 6th march 2018

Present: Neil Beaven (RBL), Bill Chantler (RBL & TDRA) Canon Rev Lindsay Hammond, Maj. Alan O’Hagan, Fred Walker & Cllr Justin Nelson. Member of the public Carol Douglas & the Town Clerk Phil Burgess was in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** None.
2. **Appointment of Chairman.** Cllr Nelson was elected in this role.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held 14th Dec 2017.** Were agreed with the exception of item 8a. Neil Beaven stated that no time frame had been agreed.
4. **Matters Arising.**

War Memorial Cleaning Bill Chantler advised that an offer had been made of a donation towards cleaning of the War Memorial and asked that the invoice could be forwarded to him so that this donation could be released. TTC would, of course, meet any surplus charge. A request was also made for the TTC maintenance staff to cut back foliage to allow cleaning of the bottom and check that the memorial is cleaned at the top. Efforts would be taken to ensure that no damage was done to the surrounding bricks.
5. **Commemorative Bricks.**

Suggested positions from this committee included near the footpath to the south of the war memorial green or near the benches, preferably in an area already bricked or concreted over. Currently the central bench at the footpath side (to the south of the green) has a base of unmarked bricks, the 2 older green benches to either side of that bench have concrete bases. The Town would check with KCC if permission is required. All agreed that a suitable plaque would be required to explain the significance of the bricks and a re-dedication ceremony would be carried out by Rev. Canon Lindsay Hammond.

There were conflicting opinions over the removal of the bricks as some would like them to stay. However, this could be treated as a re-dedication rather than a removal.

Fred Walker, Justin Nelson and Alan O’Hagan all felt it was imperative that the bricks be re-located prior to the WW1 centenary on the 11th November 2018 as their continuing presence after that date would confer a sense of permanence. Major O’Hagan requested that they be lifted and stored should it not be possible to re-locate them by then. Bill Chantler and Neil Beaven disagreed with their removal and storage and stated that the re-location should only occur on the award of a further brick.

Justin Nelson stated that a decision by the RBL was required not just on the criteria for awarding new bricks, but also on the new position of the bricks.

Carol Douglas pointed out that great upset had been caused to those with family members on the War Memorial. Four members of her own family appeared there.

Lindsay Hammond confirmed that this highlighted the importance of achieving a result before 11th Nov.

Alan O’Hagan said that at the previous meeting Neil Beaven had confirmed that the allocation of a new brick would not be a problem.

Neil Beaven advised that an RBL meeting in early May would consider:

1. The criteria for award of a new commemorative brick
2. Selection of new candidate(s), for award of a commemorative brick. 3 potential candidates existed.
3. Preferred new site for the commemorative bricks. (This would be subject to approval by the War Memorial sub-committee).

Alan O'Hagan suggested that an ideal date for a re-dedication of the bricks including any new bricks, would be on Armed Forces Day (falling this year on 30th June). This should allow time for the decision from the RBL and a meeting of this sub-committee (also in May). The committee agreed that a re-dedication on Armed Forces Day was an aspiration.

Neil Beaven agreed in principle to replacing unmarked bricks with named bricks if the site is chosen next to the central bench.

6. War Memorial at St Mildreds

Lindsay Hammond advised that plans for reordering are more advanced and that a "fly-through" video will be available shortly. The new positioning of the memorial can then be considered by this committee after identification of the names missing off the current memorial. This will be brought into line with the names on the High Street Memorial.

7. Centenary – more information for the public regarding the war dead. Great Chart had produced placards showing more details of the fallen during WW1 for the recent commemorative walk. An example is attached which help to personalise the fallen. More research would be carried out to establish details and consider suitable display media. Placards similar to the great chart display may be unsuitable owing to the greater numbers involved. Cllr Mrs Ferguson (who brought the Great Chart display to our attention) may like to participate in the research. Some names had already been researched in conjunction with Tenterden Museum and Carol Douglas had a file containing some details. Dr Jack Gillett at the History society was also a useful contact. A loose-leaf file of these details would be created.

- 8. Next Meeting** Tuesday 15th May at 6pm.

Meeting Closed at 6.49p.m.