



THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION  
“Y” Services (Garats HaY)  
Branch (BR 3502)  
[www.garats Shay.org.uk](http://www.garats Shay.org.uk)



President:	Col (Ret'd) E Sambell OBE
Chair:	Mr N Berry
Vice-Chair:	Dr J McDermott
Secretary:	Mr J Swann
Treasurer:	Mrs L Oldfield

**MINUTES OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION “Y” SERVICES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE GREENFIELDS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, HOLT DRIVE, LOUGHBOROUGH LE11 3HZ, ON SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2019, COMMENCING AT 1400 HOURS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 27

**1. THE EXHORTATION**

The Chairman, Nick Berry, requested members to stand. He then read out the names of Branch members who had passed away since the last AGM: Helen Neal, John (Rusty) Rosson, Bob Fowler, Cathie Clark, Bob Allum, Albert Upwood, and former member Mike Dawkins.

**2. TO CLOSE THE AGENDA**

An extra item, Trustee Elections 2020, was added to the Agenda as Item 14a. The Agenda was then closed by the Chairman. *(This item has subsequently been changed to Item 15 to ease production of the Minutes!).*

**3. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the AGM, particularly those who had travelled some distance. Nick then informed the meeting that we were very honoured to have Mrs Joyce Long with us, who had been part of the Y Services at Beaumanor Hall in WW2. Nick talked briefly about her life and career, and then presented her with a bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion. Joyce then said a few words, and said how happy she was to see everyone and she thanked the committee for the lovely flowers. The attendees all gave her a well deserved round of applause. Nick then informed the meeting that this was his last meeting as Chairman. He had taken on the role 3 years ago and due to his increasing full time Service and other personal commitments, he was unable to continue in the role. He said that he had not achieved everything that he wanted to, but most had been achieved due to the hard work of the rest of the committee in deciphering what he wanted to happen. He said that it had been an honour to serve as Chairman, and was very happy to be handing over to a safe pair of hands, namely Jim McDermott.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Secretary, John Swann, reported that apologies had been received from: Terry and Sue Whittles, Mike Barry, Richard Campbell, Ken Wilford, John Morrison, Dave McAllister, David and Chris Whimpenny, John Farrell, Linda McDermott, John and Angelika Neal, Linda Swann, Rev. John Bird, Tony Moore, Mike Frankish, Dave Rice and John Clark.

## 5. MINUTES OF THE 2018 BRANCH AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were confirmed as an accurate accounts.

Proposed by: Dennis Weir

Seconded by: Bob Oldfield

**Carried by a show of hands**

## 6. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were not on the Agenda.

## 7. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President, Eric Sambell, gave his address:

*Each year as this event approaches and my thoughts turn to what I am going to say and I ask myself what have I contributed to the work and success of the branch? The honest answer is "Not much". I looked again at the role of the President in the membership handbook to check my job description and I quote:*

***"The Branch President has both a representational and encouraging function. The incumbent should ..... be able to counsel the Chairman and Officers as necessary in the execution of their duties."***

*As I have said in previous years and I make no apologies for saying it again. We are blessed with officers and committee members who are hard-working, conscientious and extremely successful in carrying out their duties. I have been a member and chair of a number of committees in another organisation and have often found that someone struggles with their responsibilities and needs encouragement and sometimes much more. Our committee works like clockwork and when the time comes for officers to stand down, there are always those willing to volunteer and takeover the tasks.*

*On your behalf I would like to thank those who have served and welcome those who have willingly volunteered to take over. So that concludes my address for this year and now we can hear the reports of what your committee has achieved this year and the plans for the future.*

## 8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2020

The Chairman presented his report, and stated that the incoming Chairman, Jim McDermott, would cover the Objectives for 2020:

***Introduction.*** *This will be my last report as Chairman of the Branch as earlier this year I took the decision to not seek re-election at the end of my current 3-year term of office. My reason was a simple one – since returning to the RAF as a Full Time Reservist I have become increasingly concerned that I have not been able to discharge my responsibilities to the Branch as fully or effectively as I would like.*

*This report is as much a précis of my term in office as it is a summary of the last 12-months. More importantly though it is a public and open expression of thanks and gratitude to the members of the Branches Committee, past and present, who have supported me in my role as Chairman and worked tirelessly on your behalf to ensure that the Y Services Branch is as active, thriving and healthy as it is. A bold statement maybe; but I feel confident saying it, not just because of the many and varied activities that friends and colleagues from across the branch undertake, but also from comparing ourselves with other Branches from our District. You will soon hear from Jim McDermott when he presents his report on the activities of the National Branches District where there are a number of branches that are currently*

*struggling to build their membership. Whilst we have seen a small decline in our numbers, this has recently been reversed following the introduction of a new Facebook Group. You may also be aware that the Legion has recently changed its rules to allow branches and clubs to do without the position of Vice-Chair if there is no one willing to volunteer. The fact that we have all our committee posts filled and those who fill these roles are active and engaging is testament to both their dedication and the health of the Branch. Likewise, the willingness of individuals to be innovative and 'try something new' has seen us halt the slow decline and begin expanding again.*

**Our Achievements.** *When I look back at what has been achieved by the Branch during my 3-year term I am both amazed and proud: amazed because the variety and quantity is simply outstanding; and, proud, because it has all been achieved by volunteers who all share the same values and motivation. In no particular order we have: participated in the biggest gathering of British Legion members and Standards at GP90; laid-up our old Standard and dedicated the new one; increased our public presence ten-fold with the increased number of outings by our Standard Bearers; re-invigorated our working relationship with the Defence Sixth Form College at Welbeck and continued to deepen our relationship with JSSU(V) at Digby; completely revamped our website, including the creation of a web-based Members Only Forum; introduced new ways of raising donations for the Poppy Appeal through the use of Easyfundraising and steadily increased the amounts raised by 'traditional' methods such as raffles and sponsorship; championed the use of Office 365 for the conduct of routine committee business and introduced the use of e-voting for branch elections and email newsletters to keep members as up-to-date as possible; and finally, we have re-taken custodianship of the Y Services plot at the National Memorial Arboretum.*

**A Fond Farewell.** *It just leaves me to wish you all a very fond farewell as although I am relinquishing the Chair, I will continue to support the Branch as best I can from 'the cheap seats' rather than 'the hot seat'. To each and every one of the committee, thank you; you have kept me straight when I needed it and kept going when my job prevented me from being there.*

*Finally, to my successor Jim McDermott (and in the best traditions of RAF Ops Officers) – tick, you're it!*

## **9. REPORTS**

### **a) Secretary**

The Secretary reported on the following:

- My first year as Secretary started after the last AGM, but I was unable to take over role until later due to other commitments. Many thanks to Martin Foster for holding the fort until Feb 19
- Various items of correspondence had been dealt with throughout the year and actioned accordingly. Also, a number of requests had been received via website, such as requests for information about Y Services membership and requests for help with old photographs. All of these had been passed to the Committee and help provided whenever possible.
- Communications with HO remain good after a minor blip due to change of MSO. The new MSO is providing an excellent service and is very proactive.
- One of the major issues being dealt with since the last AGM is the continuing progress being achieved with the proposed changes and improvements to the Y Services plot. This will be discussed further later in the meeting.

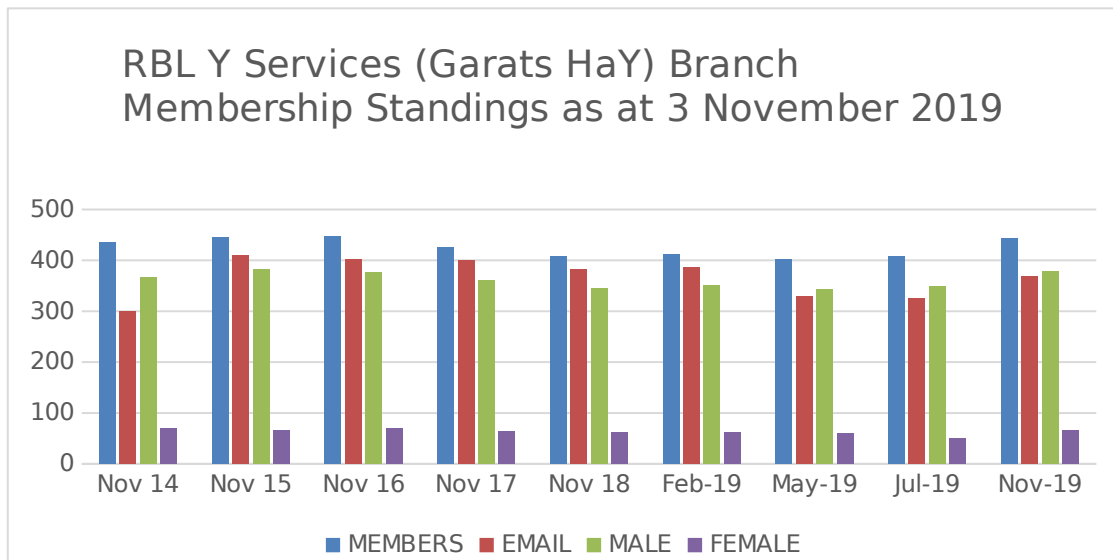
- Branch Member Terry Whittles has been awarded a CBE and Branch Member John Clark had been given Life Membership of RBL.
- This year, an E-vote had been held for approval of the Branch Annual Accounts
- There were 4 nominations for 4 vacant committee positions. This would also be covered later in the meeting.

**b) Membership Secretary**

The Membership Secretary, Pete Derrick, reported that as of 3 Nov 19:

- We now have 444 confirmed Members which is an increase of 33 members since the last AGM report. 29 of these new members are as a direct result of the formation of the RBL “Y” Services Group website.
- 378 of our members are male and 66 are female.
- 372 pay by Direct Debit, 45 by Credit or Debit Card, 18 by PayPal and 8 by Cash.
- We now have one “Life Member”, namely John Clark.
- I have 370 valid Email addresses – this accounts for 83% of Membership.
- 25 members have no Email facilities.

Pete then mentioned the new RBL “Y” Services Facebook Group has 434 members. Of those 434, 163 are members of this RBL Branch – therefore there are 271 members of the Facebook Group who are NOT Branch members. Food for thought! He hoped that we may eventually be able to achieve the elusive 500 membership level.



**c) Branch Community Support Rep**

The Secretary read out the following report:

I am unable to attend the AGM and have already extended my apologies to the Secretary. Thankfully, there have only been relatively few occasions during 2019 when I have been needed in this role and the deaths of members during the year have been reported elsewhere.

The agreed procedure for notifying me of a member's demise seems to now be working fine. However, I am not on Facebook which seems to be the preferred choice for notifying such events and would ask all concerned to ensure that I am notified as early as possible when news of a member's death is reported. This will ensure that I am able to make early contact with the family in the period when they will be making funeral arrangements.

**d) National Branches District Rep**

Jim McDermott presented his report:

Jim had attended all but one of the NBD Committee meetings during the year as well as the NBD Annual Meeting in January 2019. Branch representation at this committee continues to provide useful insights into the workings of the Legion as well as opportunities, on occasion to chase up any Branch issues. Communication with the NBD Membership Support Officer (MSO) Lawrence Butler Perks (LBP) during the year has been frequent and he has promptly provided assistance and advice with respect to several issues. In October 2019 Lawrence was seconded to another part of the Legion and has been replaced temporarily by HH staff member Jamila Hussain.

Jim then informed the meeting that, in addition to this branch, National Branches District includes: Classic Vehicles, Cyclists, The NMA, Riders, South African, St James, The Professionals, REME Recovery Mechs and LGBTQ and Allies. The Classic Vehicles, REME Recovery Mechs and LGBTQ and Allies branches which have all been formed in the last two years appear to be experiencing difficulties in forming and maintaining committees and I have undertaken (along with all the other Branch reps) to provide assistance if and when needed.

On the subject of training, it was pointed out that it is Legion policy that all members of a Branch committee should attend a County Branch Management course and it is to be hoped that this Branch will send at least one delegate to attend a course being run at Haig House in January 2020.

Nick thanked Jim for his report, and commented that this shows how vibrant and healthy we are as a National Branch, especially compared to some of the other Branches.

**e) Y Services Memorial NMA**

Jim then presented a report on the current plans to improve the Branch memorial at NMA:

Firstly, Jim covered the early history of the creation of the plot, with Joan Nichol's invaluable drive and contribution to getting it started. Jim showed

the meeting a very early picture of the plot, with very little else of the current NMA site visible at that time, as the Y Services plot was one of the first.

He then reported that over the last few months, the members of the Committee have been in communication with staff at the NMA to work towards rectifying the lack of a sign at the plot entrance. A sign was designed and quotes obtained but this was rejected by the NMA Estates Committee on the grounds that it was too different in appearance to the other plot signs in that part of the NMA and the materials we planned to use were considered (by the NMA) to have too short a life. These other signs are mostly engraved stone.

In the last two months we have had two face to face meetings with NMA staff. The first meeting was with a staff member who has now left the NMA. However points from this first meeting were discussed further with Andy Ansell the Estates manager at a second meeting at the NMA, along with two members of the gardening team, and agreement was reached on what type of materials for an entrance sign would be acceptable. The chosen design is based on another sign within the NMA commemorating the Police Service (The Beat). This a rectangle of stone placed on a stone plinth. It is planned that the rectangle will be engraved with our original design – the words ‘Y Service Organization’ and the hat badges/symbols of the main armed forces branches involved in Y services operations and including in particular the WRAC hat badge. At the time of writing this report a quote for this work was awaited. The sign will be Phase 1 of the planned improvements. It is to be hoped that we will be able to move forward with this work and have the plot sign installed during the first half of 2020.

A long term aim has been to develop and enhance the site to make it less labour intensive to maintain. In addition the NMA management believes that the site would benefit from being opened up to make it more visible and accessible. Plans for these works have been developed and include the replacement of holly plants with yew saplings; the enlargement of the entrance and entrance to the inner circle; planting of yew saplings to close up an existing gap in the hedging and the creation of new gaps. In addition the existing pebble and wooden edging of the Y shaped pathway would be replaced with new paths with the upper arms of the Y extended to the outer edge of the inner circular hedge. This extension of the pathway will entail the re-location of the two benches within the inner circle. Quotes for different types of material have been requested for these works and are awaited.

This work will not be cheap and it may be necessary for the Branch to devote some of its fundraising efforts to a fund specifically for the enhancement of the plot. We already have some funds available from donations which are ring fenced for this purpose within the Branch accounts and your committee has agreed that Phase one of the work should be the creation of an entrance sign.

Anne Irving asked if we were still investigating the use of a stone from a quarry local to Woodhouse Eaves. Jim thanked Anne for her assistance with the stone, but pointed out that it cannot be taken forward after all, due to guidance received from NMA. Anne also pointed out that there are a number

of items, including another stone, that should remain with the Branch when Welbeck College eventually closes. Jim agreed that those items should not be lost after the closure.

**f) Poppy Appeal Organiser**

Dennis presented his fundraising report:

Dennis reported that the Branch has had another good year as far as fundraising is concerned and this year we have raised a total of more than £2000. Dennis went on to summarise the various sources of income:

Collection Plate at last year's Remembrance Service - £411.24

Sale of badges to new and existing members - £293.00

JSSU(V) Christmas Draw - £515.00

Single donation in Dennis' Lincoln local - £20.00

Raffle at the July Summer Gathering in Great Yarmouth - £53.75

Our absolute star fundraiser, Gill Bennett, has again taken part in various 10km runs this year and has raised a total of £570.00

Easyfundraising - £225.61

Dennis suggested that the Chairman send a letter of thanks to OC JSSU(V) and also to Gill Bennett

**Action – Chairman**

Finally, Dennis reminded the meeting of the massive benefits to the Branch from Easyfundraising, and informed everyone that we have raised **£225.61**

He pointed out that the recent surge in membership has seen a corresponding increase in the number of members who support the easyfundraising scheme, but it remains at less than 18% of the membership. He asked that anyone shopping online to consider becoming part of the easyfundraising scheme. It will cost nothing other than an extra 20 seconds of your time when you log into your online retailer. Since we started the scheme two and a half years ago, we have raised **£1600** for the Poppy Appeal. He asked those present to imagine what that figure could be if just 30 percent of the membership participated.

In conclusion, since our last AGM the Poppy Appeal has raised **£2088.60**. He proposed that the Branch donate an additional **£911.40** in order to make the total up to **£3000**.

Proposed by: Dave Lawrence

Seconded by: Keith Hall

**Carried by a show of hands.**

The Chairman thanked Dennis for his continuing hard work as Poppy Appeal Organiser.

**g) Standard Bearers**

The Standard Bearer, Dave Lawrence, presented his report:

Monthly training sessions have continued at the Warwickshire & Birmingham County Standard Bearer School, Bramcote Barracks, Warwickshire.

The Branch Standard was paraded at the following funerals:

- 07 December 2018 – Clifford Newton, of Newton Newton Flags. Alford, Lincolnshire.
- 12 February 2019 – Bob Allum, Branch Member. Lincoln.
- 10 May 2019 – Sheila Ballard, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. (Former Women's Section local Branch President and Warwickshire Women's Section County Standard Bearer, widow of Max Ballard - former National Parade Marshal)
- 15 May 2019 – Branch member John 'Rusty' Rosson, Old Rode, Stoke-on-Trent
- 09 August 2019 – Former branch member Mike Dawkins, Loughborough.

In addition, the standard was paraded at the following events:

- 10 November 2018 – Branch Annual General Meeting, Loughborough
- 11 November 2018 – Remembrance Sunday church service and parade, Woodhouse
- 24-25 November 2018 – Birmingham International Tattoo
- 19 January 2019 – National Branches District Annual Meeting – Haig House, London
- 28 April 2019 – ANZAC Day commemoration parade, Cannock Chase CWGC cemetery.
- 28 April 2019 – Classic Vehicles Branch Standard Dedication, NMA Alrewas
- 12 May 2019 – Burbage Branch Standard Dedication, Burbage, Leics.
- 05 June 2019 – Intelligence Corps Annual Commemoration Service, NMA Alrewas
- 06 June 2019 – D-Day 75, NMA Alrewas
- 29 June 2019 – Armed Forces Day parade, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas
- 13 July 2019 – Branch Summer Gathering, Gt. Yarmouth
- 04 September 2019 – Lay-up and dedication of Coventry Nr.4 Branch standard, Coventry.
- 07 September 2019 – NBD Standard Bearer Competition, Hatton, Warwickshire.
- 28 September 2019 – Lay-up of decommissioned Warwickshire County standard, Warwick
- 25 October 2019 – Leics. & Rutland County Poppy Appeal launch, Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse.
- 26 October 2019 – Leics. & Rutland County Festival of Remembrance, De Montfort Hall, Leicester.
- 27 October 2019 – Lay-up and dedication of Atherstone Branch standard, Nuneaton.
- 09 November 2019 – Branch Annual General Meeting, Loughborough

Planned outings for the Branch Standard are:

- 10 November 2019 – Remembrance Sunday church service and parade, Woodhouse
- 23-24 November 2019 – Birmingham International Tattoo.
- 18 January 2020 - National Branches District Annual Meeting – Haig House, London.
- 08 May 2020 – VE Day 75 (place-holder, no details yet announced)
- 27 June 2020 – Armed Forces Day, NMA, Alrewas

Of particular note were the invitations from Leics. & Rutland County to attend events organised by them this year. A new development driven both by historical "Y" Services associations with the area and the camaraderie which germinated between the Branch and the Leics. & Rutland County Branches during the GP90 tour last year. It is suggested that next year Branch members may wish to consider attending one or the other, or both of these events.



The Chairman expressed his thanks to Dave and to Pete Gilbert for their hard work and also for their excellent efforts to raise the profile of the Branch.

**h) Webmaster**

In Dave's absence, the report was read by the Secretary:

The online presence of the branch through 2019 has been mostly stable. Usage of the website has increased slightly, peaking when news items have been issued.

The website and forum have now been fully transferred to new servers located wholly in the UK by Maia Internet, our hosting provider. We have reduced the domain names to just one, reducing costs. The website statistics show the average users throughout the year have increased slightly with spikes where news items were issued. We are showing a worldwide visitor profile which is extremely encouraging. Both the website and the new Facebook Group were continuing to generate a lot of interest and visibility for the Branch. The design of the website remains the same and seems to be working well. We are, however, now out of sync with the main RBL site as they have redesigned their presence.

The Secretary informed that meeting that the Committee had discussed the issue of the website, and had decided not to make any changes to it at this time. It was working fine, and any changes needed were only cosmetic. This would be reviewed in the future.

**10. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF BRANCH ACCOUNTS**

Lyn presented the Branch Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2019.

She briefly went through the relevant pages of the Accounts, which were available for members to see, and she clarified why only certain pages were relevant. She explained one key item, which was the £1400 for the new Branch Standard.

Art Weaver asked whether the Branch Standard was an asset, and should therefore be listed as such. Lyn explained that, strictly speaking, it was an asset but the current auditor did not feel it needed to be included as such within the Accounts. She added that it is accounted for, but not listed on the Accounts. Dave Street suggested that it possibly should be listed as an asset. It was suggested that Lyn contact the NBD Treasurer for advice on this issue.

**Action – Treasurer**

Dave Street also mentioned that the Branch are not allowed to use money in Legion accounts to use for non-Legion costs, (i.e. the Y Services plot). It became clear that there is some confusion as to whether the Branch own the plot at NMA, in which case it would become a legitimate Legion cost as it is owned by the Branch. The committee agreed to take further advice to ensure funds are used correctly.

The Chairman then asked the AGM to adopt the accounts. The Secretary informed the meeting that during the E-vote, 25 members had voted for adoption of the accounts, and none had voted against.

Proposed by: Bob Oldfield  
Seconded by: Malcolm Wiltshire  
**Carried by a show of hands and E-votes**

#### **11. BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION AND JOINING FEE**

The Chairman briefly discussed the Branch Subscription and Joining Fee. He stated that the Subscription for the coming year would be £5.00 and the Joining Fee would be £4.00. He then asked for approval for those amounts.

Proposed by: Martin Foster  
Seconded by: Peter Westwell  
**Carried by a show of hands**

#### **12. BRANCH ELECTIONS**

At this stage, the President took the chair, and explained that there were 4 committee positions for election, and as there was only one volunteer for each position, then the following members were elected unopposed for a three year term:

Chairman	Jim McDermott
Vice Chairman	Dennis Weir
Committee Member	Dave Lawrence
Committee Member	Terry Whittles

On completion of the formalities, Eric handed the meeting over to the new Chairman. Jim thanked Nick for his hard work as Chairman for the last 3 years, and for his enthusiasm to move the Branch forward. The meeting gave Nick a warm and well deserved round of applause. The Secretary also explained that Mike Frankish had stood down after a number of years as a Committee member due to his work and personal commitments. John thanked him for his valuable contribution and this was agreed by all present. Jim then also thanked Branch member Graham Barber for looking after the NMA plot on behalf of the Branch and for organizing the work teams throughout the year and also to those who have attended throughout the year to keep the plot looking neat and tidy. Dave Street then added his thanks to Nick for his significant contribution as Chairman over the last 3 years. He pointed out that there were 10 branches with approx. 23500 members that make up the National Branches District, and the Y Services Branch was definitely one of the "very good" Branches. This was warmly received and appreciated by the meeting. He also thanked the Secretary for quickly getting up to speed in his new position and for ensuring that the E-vote went ahead successfully. Finally, Dave thanked Dave Lawrence for his major contribution as the Branch Standard Bearer. The level of performance by District Standard Bearers is excellent and Dave is head and shoulders above most other normal Branch Standard Bearers. The Chairman then added his thanks to all of the members mentioned by Dave, and also added his thanks to Pete Gilbert for his excellent performance as Branch Standard Bearer at the parade at Welbeck College.

Jim then stated that he was looking forward to serving as Chairman for the next 3 years, and summarised his objectives for 2020:

- To try to improve the excellent Branch contributions to the Poppy Appeal
- To increase Branch membership to over 500 in 2020
- To maintain links with current members by continuing to improve communications
- To get the new signage established at the NMA
- To continue to progress Phase 2 of the work at the Y Services plot
- To promote the Summer Gathering 2020, particularly to members in SW England
- To maintain our links with Welbeck College
- To continue to liaise with and improve communication with Loughborough RSA Branch
- To take advice on the creation of a Property Book

### **13. APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL BRANCHES DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

The Chairman explained that the AGM needed to appoint two delegates to the NBD Annual Conference to be held in London in January 2020. The Secretary informed the meeting that Linda McDermott and Dave Lawrence had already volunteered to attend. As there were no other volunteers, the Chairman asked for approval from the meeting:

Proposed by: Karen Brutnell

Seconded by: Art Weaver

**Carried by a show of hands**

### **14. APPOINTMENT OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

The Chairman then explained that we also need to appoint two delegates to attend the RBL Annual Conference to be held in Southport on 16-17 May 2020. He pointed out that there were no volunteers from within the Committee, and asked if there were any volunteers. Karen Brutnell volunteered to attend on behalf of the Branch, and the Secretary said that he would speak to Karen about it after the meeting. As there were no other volunteers, the Chairman said that he would advertise for another volunteer in the next Branch Newsletter.

### **15. TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2020**

The Chairman explained that the RBL has 4 vacancies for new Trustees to be elected in 2020, and Branches had been asked to propose anyone that they thought would be suitable for the post. He asked the meeting if anyone present would like to stand as a Trustee and that details were available from the Secretary if anyone was interested. There were no volunteers at the meeting.

### **16. SUMMER GATHERING 2020**

The President informed the meeting that he and Kay would be happy to organise the Summer Gathering 2020, and he proposed that it be held in Chippenham over the weekend of 17-19 July. He outlined a number of potential activities that could be undertaken, and said that there was much to do in the area and that it might be better to have a number of options rather than one single event. It was also intended to have the usual dinner on the Saturday night. He also suggested that we hold the Committee meeting on the Friday p.m., so that the whole of Saturday would be available for social events. There will be more information available in the coming months.

#### **17. CLOSING REMARKS AND DATE & PLACE OF NEXT AGM**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM and supporting the Branch. Anne Irving asked if the Branch had any specific plans for commemorating VE Day in 2020. The Chairman stated that it will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. The Secretary confirmed that the next AGM will be held at the Greenfields Sports and Social Club at 1400 on Saturday 7 November 2020.

**Action: Chairman/Secretary**