COWES TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **World War1 Working Group** held in the Town Council Office, Northwood House, Cowes on Wednesday, 27th August 2014 at 6.15p.m.

Present: Councillors Banks, Jones, Matthews and Spalding.

1   ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED
That Councillor Banks be elected Chairman of the World War 1 Working Group for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

2   APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Peacey-Wilcox.

3   DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

4   WORLD WAR 1 COMMEMORATIONS

Councillor Banks stated that following an inaugural meeting of an Islandwide WW1 Commemoration steering group, whereby Carisbrooke Castle Museum was the co-ordinating body, it had been determined that it rested with individual Town and Parish Councils to commemorate the period of the WW1 years as they felt fit.
Many Town and Parish Councils had commemorated the outbreak of the First World War; although Cowes Town Council did not hold any formal commemoration events the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had placed a wreath at the War Memorial on 4th August.
Over the period of the next four years central government had requested that local councils engage with commemorating the Great War and grant funding was available for any approved special events.
Members considered the possible format for a commemoration at the service on Armistice Sunday, 9th November and then possible other future events to commemorate the First World War.
Following much discussion, it was
RECOMMENDED (in respect of Armistice Day Parade)
1). That a public address system be provided and the names of the First World War read out;
2). That following liaison, the Clergy for the service be requested to emphasise the part played by the Cowes servicemen in the Great War;

3). That military representatives lay their wreaths on the memorial tiers to the south aspect of the war memorial where the names of the First World War deceased are recorded while civic dignitaries and community organisations lay wreaths to the front and east sides;

4). That the Town Council requests of NHCTCL permission for a temporary flagpole to be erected adjacent to the war memorial for 2014 pending planning permission for a permanent fixture; and

5). That the Salvation Army band at the Armistice Parade be requested to play a selection of typical WW1 tunes

RECOMMENDED (in respect of Armistice Day Church Service)

1). That a poem relating to the war, possibly from Wilfred Owen or Siegfried Sassoon, is read;

2). That a special 'poppy candle' or large red candle is lit in remembrance of those 148 Cowes combatants who forfeited their lives;

RECOMMENDED (in respect of future events)

1). That an information page relating to the 148 Great War dead from Cowes be included in future editions of the Town Council newsletter;

2). That the Town Council purchases poppy seeds for distribution to local schools for children to plant;

3). That the Town Council considers taking over the Park Road Rose Garden from the I.W. Council with the view that it becomes a WW1 commemorative area and then seeks grant funding for forming it into that dedicated area;

4). That on 4th August each year of the war's centenary the Town Council lays a wreath at the War memorial;

5). That the Town Council holds an evening discourse of war poetry in Northwood House which could include prints of paintings and photographs by war artists and photographers from the time possibly incorporating it as a part of the Cowes Literacy Festival; and

6). That the Town Council plants trees together with dedicated commemoration plaques, in Northwood Park, Northwood Recreation Ground, Mornington Road and Princes Green to mark each year of the Great War.

If the above recommendations were accepted by the Town Council, early liaison would need to be made with the Cowes RBL, the NHCTCL and St. Mary's Church.

(The proceedings terminated at 7.28pm)

CHAIRMAN