

REMEMBRANCE WORKING PARTY

6.00pm, 25th November 2020
Via Zoom

Present: Cllrs Mr P Williams (Chair), Mr S Attenborough, Mr R Hoelmer, Fr A Hall (St Catherine's Church) Mrs A Crabtree, Mrs S Whitworth (Burbage Heritage Group), Mr D Leslie (British Legion), Mrs H Thomasson (Principal Officer) and Ms J Perry (Deputy Principal Officer)

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from, Ms C Lenton.

Cllr Williams updated the meeting with the thoughts from Mr R Smith who did a tremendous job with the video for the remembrance service. He offered apologies that pressure of work means that he will not be able to support the working party at the present time, but that he hopes to be able to offer help again nearer the remembrance event in 2021. The whole group offered heartfelt thanks for all of his efforts for an outstanding video of the service this year.

[Mr Kenn Coates offered late apologies as he did not know about the meeting as the invite had gone to the British Legion email account]

2. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 20th October 2020**

The meeting accepted the minutes of the 20th October 2020 as a true record.

3. **2021 – 100th Anniversary of War Memorial**

Cllr Williams gave a little background to the committee issues during 1920 when a dispute occurred regarding the location that the war memorial should be placed.

The group unanimously agreed that it was appropriate that the 100 year anniversary of the unveiling of the war memorial, located on what was then the village green, on Saturday 26th February 1921, should be suitably commemorated.

Given that the latest information regarding COVID-19 is that some form of restrictions on gatherings with remains a possibility beyond Easter of 2021, it was suggested the commemoration could be moved to the summer months ideally toward the end of June.

Mrs Whitworth informed the meeting that a commemoration was held for the 90th anniversary and recounted that event was very cold.

Various dates were considered;

- 15th May - 100 years since the British Legion was formed
- 12th June – Trooping the Colour Day
- xx June – Burbage Carnival

Amongst the considerations considered were availability of the COVID vaccine, other activities in the village (such as the carnival) and how they would interact. The idea of sharing a road closure date with the carnival parade was discussed but it was considered that it would extend the road closure period for longer than residents in the area would consider acceptable.

The idea of an afternoon ceremony which is linked to an afternoon tea and display. It was agreed Mrs Crabtree would circulate details about the event which occurred in 1921. There was many floral tributes laid in 1921, which was before the poppy had been adopted for commemoration at the scale it is today.

Mr Leslie will check with the British Legion as to the date the Burbage branch was first formed.

The Co-Op Funeralcare are keen to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the memorial particularly as the Co-Op contributed to the costs in 1920.

It was agreed that there could still be a modest event (not widely publicised) on the actual anniversary at the war memorial.

Mrs Whitworth expressed the wish that we take the opportunity of the anniversary to try once again to find information about the war memorial such as the sculptor to record for posterity. It was agreed such investigations should be encouraged.

The question was raised of whether any restoration of the soldier was appropriate. Mrs Thomasson advised that the report undertaken in 2018 concluded the issues would not be suitable for restoration, although there was no immediate risk of further deterioration.

Fr Andrew expressed the hope that some form of musical elements can be arranged with the celebration and asked if some group or band could be included. He also asked if the military could be involved with the arrangements.

Mr Leslie will investigate the current representation of the Leicester Regiment to see if we can involve them.

The group is encouraged to gather and share any historical information about the war memorial with the rest of the group.

It was suggest the town twinning organisation could be contacted (subject to travel restrictions) to see if they would like to time a trip to Burbage to coincide with the commemoration.

Mrs Whitworth asked if adding a name to the memorial could be considered which is missing from the commemoration of the WW2 fallen. Having

explained a little of the background it was agreed that it would be appropriate to investigate the person further to bring forward proposal for consideration.

4. **Further meetings**

To be arranged.