

# LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Report from the 1918 Armistice Commemoration Working Party  
Held at 7pm on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
in the Market House

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**Present:** Bob Barnes (Chair), Martin Eager (note taker), Jennifer Harrison, Brenda Hill  
Mike Stephens, Clive Jupp and Cllr Keith Francis

**Apologies:** Rev Bill McKenzie

**1. Interests:** None declared.

**2. War Memorial Refurbishment Report from Cllr Nina Shields:**

Members were circulated the report and it was read out by the Chairman, members were very concerned that comments and recommendations from the Herefordshire Council Conservation Officer did not concur with specialist advice taken in the course of preparing the refurbishment grant. Members strongly disagreed that the works required were “cosmetic” as it has always been accepted that since the poor repairs carried out some 30 years ago when the monument was struck by a vehicle, the War Memorial has suffered due to wrong or poor materials being used such as cement instead of Lime Mortar and water ingress caused from the raising of the surrounding footpath & road.

Members were also surprised that BBLP were again being approached to carry out the ground works including replacing the cobbles with matched paving stones, as BBLP had previously expressed no desire to do the work and insisted that an approved contractor be appointed by LTC, which following tenders and on-site meetings has been done, though as previously reported it had been at the time extremely difficult to source a company willing to take on the proposed works.

During this discussion members showed concern that LTC had been debating whether or not to support using the War Memorial Commission approved cleaning contractor and also the misinformation as to alleged, unsupported and unfounded claims that this same contractor had damaged the War Memorial last year with a pressure washer. It has also recently been recorded that councillors have expressed their concern over the current state of the War Memorial.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the proposed works as identified by Philippa Fawcett are presented to The Conservation Officer for approval (or not) and insistence that the Conservation Officer provides a written report to LTC as to their decision which in effect will place liability of repairs and future condition of the monument in the hands of Herefordshire Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Ledbury Town Council follows and supports the advice from the appointed contractor (Philippa Fawcett) in that the works are carried out to her specification as laid out in her quote of July 2017, and that these works are carried out as previously stated in the Spring of 2019 using allocated funds if no other source of funding can be found.

**See E&L Minutes 14/09/2017 E.70 - 9.17**

**See Full Council Minutes 28/09/17 C.121 – 09.17**

**RECOMMENDATION: That Ledbury Town Council keeps the appointed contractor for the ground works (Martin Meredith) but contact him again to reaffirm availability and quoted costs of £5,500.**

**See E&L Minutes 29/06/2017 E.55 – 06.17**

**See Full Council Minutes 20/07/17 C.92 – 07.17**

**3. 1918 - 2018 Armistice Commemoration:**

- a. J Harrison reported that she and Rachael Lambert had now readied the Ledbury War Memorials booklet for printing – 3000 copies to be printed and distributed around Ledbury including local schools, this will be done when the War Memorial works are completed.
- b. Centenary Exhibition will take place in St Michaels & All Angels from 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November, J. Harrison will be getting help from B. Barnes, K. Francis & M. Eager to set up on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Listen out for BBC H&W for feature on local War Memorials including Ledbury.
- c. 13<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm at St Michaels & All Angels will be the launch of ‘A Bell To Remember’.
- d. Banners Update; following a note from Cllr Nina Shields where LTC were questioning the cost and distribution of the banners, a discussion resulted in the decision to put the planned banners on hold, and to make the information available to all electronically, and that J. Harrison works with LTC when the new website is being created to put this and the other Armistice Commemoration material on the website.

**RECOMMENDATION: That for the time being, the proposed banners are put on indefinite hold, the allocated costs are returned to balances and that LTC works with J Harrison when the new website is created.**

**4. Remembrance Sunday:**

Plans now all in place, little further to report except that B. Hill queried who was going to move and put away the furniture (barriers & chairs) following the High St parade and service. C. Jupp and Cllr Francis volunteered their services. Discussion as to no parking posters (not required) and no parking cones.

**5. Silent Soldier:**

All Silent Soldiers to be removed by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018, discussion resolved that J. Harrison contact Ledbury Focus to put a notice in for any local interested parties to claim one with a donation to RBL poppy appeal. M. Eager suggested that the Community Hall should have one – agreed.

*[following the meeting discussions between members resulted in the decision to hold on to the Silent Soldiers until the next meeting where it will be more certain as to what quantity (and subject to condition) of the Silent Soldiers will be available]*

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**

**The next meeting of the Working Party will take place on...  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7pm in Ledbury Market House.**