ACCORINTON PALS CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS GROUP

Friday, 23rd February, 2018

Present: Councillor Miles Parkinson (in the Chair), Councillors Judith Addison

Apologies Cathy Kierans, Gayle Knight, Katherine Walsh and Victoria Ingham.

1 Welcome by the Chair and Introductions

Councillor Miles Parkinson reflected on the excellent work the group had delivered over the centenary commemoration period to date and reminded the group that 2018 was a particularly important year and that we need to make it a successful conclusion to the commemoration programme.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cathy Kierans, Gayle Knight, Katherine Walsh and Victoria Ingham.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting of the Accrington Pals Centenary Commemorations Group held on 5th September 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Agreed - That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

There were no matters arising

5 Battle’s Over - A Nation's Tribute

Councillor Miles Parkinson informed the group of “Battle’s Over” the national tribute to commemorate 100 years of remembrance on the 11th November 2018 and how this would be reflected in the local programme of events.

Mike Walker outlined the elements and schedule for the “Battle’s Over” tribute.

The group discussed the “Battle's Over” events and how these would be delivered locally.

Councillor Miles Parkinson reminded the group that it would be important to ensure all activities are carefully co-ordinated to avoid any problems.

Rawden Kerr informed the group that Town Criers are participating in the “Battle’s Over” tribute on behalf of their national organisations.

Councillor Miles Parkinson set out the requirements for this year’s Remembrance Day Parade taking place in Accrington.
(1) That Mike Walker prepare a draft schedule of Remembrance events and town centre plan showing the proposed location of the various events taking place on the 10th and 11th November 2018;

(2) That Craig Haraben contact Prospects to see if they would provide volunteer guides to support the lighting of the beacon bonfire on the Coppice;

(3) That Victoria Ingham engage with town centre businesses about the programme of events and develop a schedule for town centre events taking place on Saturday 10th November;

(4) That Mike Walker identify serving personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force to participate in the Remembrance events; and

(5) That Mike Walker approach the Police to see if they are able to support the Remembrance Day parade plans for Accrington; and

(6) That Mike Walker identify churches across Hyndburn that have functioning bells to support “Ringing out for Peace”.

6 Basil Horsfall - Victoria Cross Recipient

Ben Caulfield updated the group on the plans for the laying of the commemorative paving stone on the 27th March 2018 in recognition of the Victoria Cross awarded to Basil Horsfall during WW1 whilst he was attached to the Accrington Pals.

Rawden Kerr accepted the invitation to open proceedings on the day.

Ben Caulfield circulated the artwork for the new information board that will be installed in the town hall relating to Basil Horsfall and his Victoria Cross.

Michael Hughes said that it is important that due respect is paid to the event and to the Victoria Cross itself because of what it represents.

Michael Hughes asked how we will ensure visitors to Accrington know where the various sites commemorating the Accrington Pals are located. Councillor Miles Parkinson said that this was something the Council would look into.

(1) That Ben Caulfield arrange for press releases to be prepared publicising the event; and

(2) That Cathy Kierans develop proposals to inform the public of the location of the various sites commemorating the Accrington Pals;
7 Update on the Town Square and the Illuminos Project

Annette Birch informed the group that the Town Square project was on schedule and circulated the designs for the benches that would be located in the square that would incorporate information panels covering the heritage of the borough. Councillor Miles Parkinson reviewed and approved the designs.

Rawden Kerr accepted an invitation to participate in the opening of the Town Square. Councillor Miles Parkinson asked that a proclamation be prepared for the opening of the town square.

Annette Birch updated the group on the Illuminos Project.

Agreed - That Cathy Kierans prepare a proclamation for the opening of the town square.

8 Projects and Events Summary

Cath Holmes informed the group that the Tatton Garden Project won’t be going ahead and asked that it be removed from the list.

Gilbert’s Bench should be marked as complete.

The Accrington Pals leaflet should be updated and reprinted in time for the opening of the Town Square and Remembrance Day.

Agreed (1) That Mike Walker update the events summary; and

(2) That Cathy Kierans arrange for the Accrington Pals Leaflet to be updated and reprinted.

9 Any Other Business

Mike Walker updated the group on a number of WW1 / WW2 events and activities that Gayle Knight had informed him of.

Rawden Kerr explained that in his role as Great Harwood Town Crier he is able to support charitable events at no cost but for all other events the Great Harwood Civic Society would require a contribution. Councillor Miles Parkinson said that the Council would make a contribution to Great Harwood Civic Society for the support that is being given by the Town Crier during this final year of centenary commemorations.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Agreed - That the next meeting of the Accrington Pals Centenary Commemorations Group to be on a date to be confirmed.