

Report of a meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to discuss the arrangements for the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorations of VE Day and VJ Day 2020 held in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem at 7pm.

**Present** 17 members of the community of Wem Town. Apologies were received from Enid Smith, Cllr Wilton Morgan.

Along with several individuals the following groups were represented

Wem Poppy Appeal  
Wem RBL  
Millennium Green  
Sue Holiday  
Thomas Adams School  
Wem Jubilee Band  
Wem Rotary  
Wem Rural Parish Council  
Wem Town Council

**1. Welcome and opening remarks** – Mayor Phil Glover opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. He outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to create a steering group to develop ideas for an event to celebrate the Commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day

**2. Volunteers for steering group** - All people present expressed the wish to be involved with the planning of the commemorations and it was agreed that each group could nominate 1 representative to attend steering group meetings.

The Town Clerk outlined the events that were being suggested nationally by SSAFA which included

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**15.00 Piper Piping Battel's O'er** - Sue Holiday agreed to approach a local piper to see if he would be willing to do this.

**Nations Toast** – Town Council to make all pubs in Wem aware and request that they register their interest.

**18.55 Cry out for Peace** – not possible to carry out as Town does not have a Town Cryer although it was suggested that the Shrewsbury town Cryer could be invited to take part in events on the Saturday.

**19.00 Ringing out for Peace** – Town Council to contact Rev Heron to see if this could be arranged at St Peters and t Pauls Church.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

#### **Parties and Celebrations**

A general discussion took place on this and it was AGREED that the following community event would be organised;

- A community picnic with musical entertainment from local schools, youth groups and Wem Jubilee Band on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May from 12.00-15.00 om Millennium Green

- Stalls to be allowed on the Green
- Green to be decorated
- Methodist Church Hall to be used for toilets and in case of wet weather (subject to booking availability).

**The following suggestions were also made**

- Purchasing commemorative mugs or coins for all primary age school children in the local schools and for Thomas Adams Pupils helping with the event. George Nash agreed to look into grant funding for this.
- People attending be encourage to dress in 1940's costume
- See whether Town Cryer can attend the event – Edward Towers to contact.
- Schools all be encourages to provide 20 minutes of musical entertainment with a finale involving all schools singing songs from the period – Connie Granger volunteered to liaise with Newtown School, Peter Broomhall St Peters, Jenni Whitfield Thomas Adams.
- Wem Jubilee Band to discuss the commissioning of a piece of music from a member of Wem RBL – Wem Jubilee Band to co-ordinate.
- Ensure that other groups planning events on the weekend shared information to avoid clashes – Town Clerk to co-ordinate.
- More information required on the plans St Peters and St Pauls Church have for the commemoration.
- To mark VJ day later it the year by planting 75 trees in Wem Town and Wem Rural Parish with a commemorative tree and plaque being planted in each school.
- It was reported that on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Wem British Legion would also be running an event from 10.00 -15.00 in Wem Town Hall.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration including playing of The Last Post.**

Town Clerk agreed to discuss this with Rev Heron, members of Wem Jubilee Band indicated that they would be willing to provide someone to play The Last Post.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 19.45

Next meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 19.00

Meeting ended 19.45

