

Report of a meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 held in the Eckford Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem to discuss the arrangements for the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorations of VE Day and VJ Day 2020 at 7pm

**Present** 14 members of the community present.

Along with a number of individuals the following groups were represented

Wem RBL – Christine Saxton

Millennium Green – Phil Moyse

Thomas Adams School – Rebecca Heywood, Jennie Whitfield

Wem Jubilee Band – Ray and Jean Edge

Wem Rotary – Michael Howell, Eric Lowry

Wem Town Council - Phil Glover, Connie Granger, Edward Towers

Wem Methodist Church – Rosemary Dodd

Sue Holliday, Enid Smith

### **1. Welcome and opening remarks**

Phil Glover welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Rev Nick Heron, Tim Wilton-Morgan, Pauline Dee, Cathy Rutherford, Peter Broomhall.

### **3. Notes from meeting held on 16.9.19 for approval**

**Agreed to approve the notes from the meeting on 16.9.19**

**4. Progress report** - To receive reports on progress made on the following items raised at previous meeting

An outline of the planned event was explained. A bring and share picnic to be held on Wem Millennium Green (in the Methodist Church if wet) between 12.00 and 15.00 on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020 with musical entertainment to be provided by local schools and an ensemble from Wem Jubilee Band.

- **Use of Millennium Green for the community picnic** - Phil Moyse reported that the committee has agreed the use of the green but that help will be needed with setting up and taking down of the event. It was suggested that the army cadets and air cadets may be able to help. It was also explained as the electricity from the old mortuary would be used a donation for the use of the green would be appreciated.  
**ACTION – Christine Saxton to contact cadets.**
- **Use of Methodist Church Hall** - Rosemary Dodd reported that this has been approved and the hall's toilets can be used during the event and the hall itself in case of poor weather. Tea and Coffees will be provided along with light refreshments. The hall will also be decorated.  
It was suggested that Stage Door could also be used for toilets –  
**ACTION - Phil Glover to ask John Edge ref use of toilets and whether it would be possible to borrow chairs from Stage Door Theatre as well**
- **Musical entertainment –**  
Thomas Adams – Becky Heywood Director of Music reported that the school will be able to provide an orchestra along with a choir to provide entertainment in 20

minute slots. There was a possibility that the choirs from all 3 schools could combine for a 10 minute slot

St Peters Primary – Peter Broomhall – no update

Newtown – Connie Granger - no update

Wem Jubilee Band – the Band will be able to provide a group of senior band players will play a selection of music from the war era for 2 x 20 minute slots. It was suggested that the band could also accompany the choirs. It was also reported that the band is still to make contact with the gentleman from the RBL who may be able to write a piece of music for the occasion. Becky Heywood expressed an interest that senior students from the school may be interested in being involved with this project.

**ACTION - Becky Heywood/Jennie Whitfield to make contact with St Peters and Newtown Schools to devise a musical programme of entertainment and to liaise with Wem Jubilee Band as well.**

**Penny O’Hagan to source microphone and speaker system to introduce entertainment.**

**Wem Jubilee Band to be put in touch with Michael McDermot from the RBL to discuss the composition of a piece of music for the occasion.**

- **Other Events being organised that weekend** - Penny O’Hagan reported that the following events would be running that weekend to tie in with the commemorations;

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

15.00 – Piper to play Battles O’er on Church Steps – Sue Holiday reported that a piper had agreed to play but needed more information.

**ACTION - Penny O’Hagan to contact**

15.00 – a nations toast – letter to be sent to all pubs nearer the time.

**ACTION - letter to be drafted**

18.55 Town Crier – cry out for peace, no update

**ACTION - Edward Towers to contact**

19.00 Bell ringing – confirmation needed from St Peters

**ACTION - Rev Heron to confirm availability**

**Local events**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** - performance by Wem Jubilee Band in the St Peters in the Saturday evening

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

A tea party may be planned in the Parish Church Hall for the Sunday afternoon but this was still undecided.

It was suggested that a Churches together outside service of commemoration could be organised at 18.00 on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and held also on The Millennium Green or in the United Services Club if wet.

**ACTION - Rev Nick Heron to contact other churches to see whether a joint service could be arranged.**

- **Shrewsbury Town Crier Involvement** – no update, it was suggested that the Crier could be asked to comper the event  
**ACTION - Edward Towers to contact.**
- **Commemorative mugs/coins** - George Nash – no update

## **5. Commemorative Tree Planting**

A discussion took place on this item and as part of the commemorations in the Autumn the suggestion was made that a tree could be planted for every name on the War Memorial as close to the place where they lived as possible.

A project of this nature would require a volunteer to coordinate it to identify locations for tree planting and seek appropriate permissions.

**ACTION - Wem Rotary to co-ordinate this project in partnership with Wem Civic Society.**

## **6. Any other matters**

**Decoration** – It was agreed that bunting and other decorations would need to be erected on the Millennium Green

**ACTION - RBL to organise.**

**Stalls** – It was explained that there was some space for stalls on the Green the group decided that these stalls should be limited to Youth organisations in the Town and the RBL

**ACTION - Christine Saxton to co-ordinate**

**Refreshments** – Wem Methodist Church has offered to sell refreshments, there was also the suggestion of an ice cream van but that Stewards may be needed with the road crossing as part of the risk assessment.

**ACTION - Methodist Church to co-ordinate refreshments and to discuss any other food provision at the next meeting.**

**Publicity and High Street Decoration** – Shops to be encouraged to decorate shop windows and a poster competition could be held.

**ACTION - to discuss at next meeting.**

**Narnia Themed decoration** - a suggestion was made that one of the buildings in the Town could be decorated in the theme of Narnia as this was fitting of the time period.

**ACTION - Edward Towers to investigate whether this could be possible in The Baptist Church**

## **7. Date of next meeting**

19.00 Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

Meeting ended 20.00