



Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2016
At Asda Community Room, Westbrook, Great Sankey

Present: T Wood, B McLaughlin, J Bouch, D Taylor, A Seddon, P Grierson

<p>Apologies Apologies received from D Woods, S McLaughlin.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2016 were agreed.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising NO OUTSTANDING ITEMS.</p>	
<p>Correspondence An invitation has been received from the Penketh Detachment of the Army cadets for the 2016 Pass Off Parade which takes place on 22nd June. Everyone seemed enthusiastic about this and a reply will be sent advising that 5/6 of our group will attend.</p>	<p>JB</p>
<p>Chair's Report The action day proposed for 30th April had been cancelled as the cadets had to pull out at short notice and other members of our group were either on holiday or suffering from illness. A report was given about the Caring for God's Acre conference that was attended by T Wood and J Bouch. This covered various topics from Yew Trees to caring for memorial stones. A book was purchased entitled "Churchyards and Burial Grounds Action pack" which will be useful for the whole group.</p>	
<p>Membership of Caring for God's Acre It was agreed that we would become members of this organisation as it was felt we could benefit greatly from their experience. It was agreed that we would set up a standing order for the £30 annual subscription.</p>	<p>JB</p>
<p>Longbarn Summer Fair As agreed FOSMC would man a gift bag bazaar stall at this event on 21st May. Setup will be from 11am and the fair to be open to the public from 12noon through to 5pm. The committee thanked Bob & Sue McLaughlin for donating a 6m x 3m pop-up gazebo, with leg weights, to the group.</p>	<p>TW, JB, AS</p>

<p>Battle of the Somme</p> <p>The Battle of the Somme took place between 1st July and 18th November 1916. Following discussion with the Royal British Legion it has been agreed that we commemorate this event at the cemetery on Saturday, 3rd July, 2016. As the Army cadets work so hard when at the cemetery we want this occasion to showcase them and the work they do. They will work on all the WWI graves on the day. It was decided to have a normal work day but at 12noon the cadets will congregate at the War Memorial to read out extracts from letters from soldiers who fought in this battle. They will wear T-shirts with the name on of the soldier whose letter they are reading. There are four soldiers associated with the Battle of the Somme at the cemetery, two laid to rest in Commonwealth War graves, one in his family plot and one named on the War Memorial but buried elsewhere. Flowers will be laid on these graves and the War Memorial. The cadets will have a history of these gentlemen which they can convey to anyone who visits the cemetery on the day. Bob McLaughlin will read a poem to bring the readings to an end. As a sign of respect Union flags will be placed on all WWI graves. The Friends group will provide light refreshments for anyone who visits or works in the cemetery on the day. The cost of the T-shirts will be split 50/50 between the RBL and the FOSMC. The cost of the flowers and refreshments will be met by Friends group. T Wood to arrange a press release and leaflets for the local churches, schools, etc.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>TW</p>
<p>Tom Sephton/Armed Forces Day</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding this event. J Bouch advised she could only cover in the morning and D Taylor agreed to join her. Unfortunately there was no manpower to cover the rest of the day. Under the circumstances it was suggested, that for this year only, we advertise in the programme as a way of supporting the charity. A vote was taken and four, out of six committee members present, agreed to this. J Bouch to arrange the advert with the organising committee.</p>	<p>JB</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>D Taylor advised that Veronica Hudson was once again working for WDP and she stated she may be able to get some volunteers to help the group.</p> <p>Ryan Ford, who has previously worked with us in the cemetery, has been nominated for Young Volunteer of the Year. D Taylor will be attending the Awards ceremony on 7th June.</p> <p>Bob McLaughlin thanked the group for looking after his family grave during his recent illness.</p> <p>A Seddon advised he has spent time at the cemetery cutting the grass. It was stressed that somebody needs to be with him if he works in the cemetery.</p>	

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on **MONDAY**, 20th June, 2016 at Marina Avenue.

