

## VE & VJ 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the VE & VJ Anniversary Event Working Party held in the Council Chamber, Totton and Eling Civic Centre at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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PRESENT Councillors, L. E. Harris and S. A. Shepherd.  
Francesca, Royal British Legion.  
The Town Clerk and Senior PA.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.  
Apologies for absence were received from: -  
Councillors D. M. Penny, C. L. Rackham and B. R. Thompson.  
Mick - Royal British Legion.
2. UPDATE ON VE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY EVENTS  
The Town Clerk updated Members on the following: -

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

- Two VE flags had been purchased for the flagpoles outside the Civic Centre and the War Memorial. These would be raised at 9.00 a.m.
- A Memorial Service and wreath laying would be held at the War Memorial early evening. Time to be confirmed by RBL.  
**Action: RBL**
- A theatrical performance to take place in the performance area in the Town Park following the Memorial Service, details to be advised.  
**Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham.**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- 20 Lamps of peace had been purchased.
- Lamps of Peace parade would commence at 9.30 p.m. through the Town Park ending with a Tribute and a WW11 sing-along at the Totton and Eling Community Centre area. Song sheets would be provided by the Town Council.  
**Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham – Lanterns and Parade organisation.**  
**T&ETC – song sheets.**
- Organisation of steward assistance.  
**Action: Councillor D. M. Penny**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- Street Party, organised by RBL, to be held in the dead-end area of Junction Road, Totton to include war time vehicles. A detailed list of events would be provided by the RBL. Council happy to produce marketing posters etc., for inclusion in programme of events.  
**Action: RBL**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- West Totton Centre had been booked for the Afternoon Tea Dance.
- Background music would be played whilst people arrive and during their afternoon tea.
- A swing band had been booked and would play 'Glen Miller' style music to encourage people onto the dance floor.
- Catering for the 100-afternoon teas had been organised.
- Draft tickets had been formulated and it was suggested that ex service and current service men and women would be given priority when issuing tickets. This would be monitored and adapted accordingly.

Other suggestions/actions: -

- The Chaplain at AFC Totton to be contacted to see if he would be available to attend the service on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.
- 6 stewards were required for the evening on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025.  
**Action: Councillor D. M. Penny.**
- It had been confirmed that Team Totton had agreed to put up flags and bunting around the Town Centre.  
**Action: Councillor S. A. Shepherd**
- Red, white and blue flowers had been purchased and would be planted in the next couple of weeks.  
**Action: T&ETC**
- The shops to be encouraged to decorate and to investigate the possibility of running a competition for the best dressed shop window.  
**Action: T&ETC / Councillor C. L. Rackham**
- Schools to be contacted suggesting that pupils could research and produce artwork that could be displayed in the Town Park. – 'Art in the Park'.  
**Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham**
- Many of the benches in the Town Park had already been dedicated and had a plaque. The Town Council would endeavour to dedicate two benches in commemoration to VE & VJ Day when able to do so.  
**Action: T&ETC**
- A programme of events for VE & VJ Day was currently being put together and posters would be displayed around the Town and on the Town Council's website and social media.  
**Action: T&ETC**
- Churches to be contacted in regard to participation of the national bell ringing at 6.30 p.m.  
**Action: T&ETC**

3. OPTIONS FOR THE VJ 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY  
EVENT/S

- Two VJ flags had been purchased for the flagpoles outside the Civic Centre and the War Memorial. These would be raised at 9.00 a.m.
- A memorial service and wreath laying would be held at the War Memorial early evening. Time to be confirmed by RBL.  
*Action: RBL*
- A theatrical performance to take place in the performance area in the Town Park, suggested theme i.e. 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum' or similar.  
*Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham.*
- It was suggested that an educational VJ documentary could be broadcast during the day, maybe in Totton and Eling Community Centre, with free tea and coffee being served.  
*Action: T&ETC and RBL.*
- An email would be sent out to Councillors asking for any suggestions for the VJ day commemorations.  
*Action: T&ETC*
- It was agreed that the next meeting would be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April.
- *Action: T&ETC*
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The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m.