

VE & VJ 80TH 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 Tuesday 16th April 2025.

PRESENT Councillors, L. E. Harris, S. A. Shepherd and
B. R. Thompson.
The Town Clerk and Senior PA.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from: -
Councillor C. L. Rackham.
Francesca and Mick - Royal British Legion.

2. UPDATE ON VE 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY EVENTS

The Town Clerk updated Members on the following: -

Thursday 8th 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 would be held at the War Memorial commencing at 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm.
Action: RBL
- A theatrical performance to take place in the performance area in the Town Park commencing at 6.30 pm.
Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham.

Friday 9th May 2025

- 20 Lamps of peace had been purchased.
- Lamps of Peace parade would commence at 9.00 p.m. through the Town Park ending with a Tribute and a WWII 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 10th May 2025

- Street Party, organised by RBL, to be held in the dead-end area of Junction Road, Totton to include war time vehicles.
Action: RBL

Sunday 11th May 2025

- Afternoon Tea Dance at West Totton Centre.
- 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.
- Tickets were currently available at the Town Council offices, 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 had been contacted. RBL were liaising with him.
- 6 stewards were required for the evening on Friday 9th May 2025.
Action: Councillor D. M. Penny.
- Flags were currently being put up around the Town.
Action: Councillor S. A. Shepherd
- Red, white and blue flowers had been planted.
Action: T&ETC
- A programme of events for VE Day had been put together, posters had been placed around the Town and being promoted on the Council's website and social media platform.
Action: T&ETC
- Totton Churches had been contacted in regard to participation of the national bell ringing at 6.30 p.m. St Mary's Church in Eling confirmed they would be pleased to participate.
Action: T&ETC

3. OPTIONS FOR THE VJ 80TH 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 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.
Action: Councillor C. L. Rackham.
- It was suggested that an educational VJ documentary could be broadcast, maybe in Totton and Eling Community Centre, with free tea and coffee being served.
Action: T&ETC and RBL.

The meeting closed at 5.35 p.m.