

REPORT TO EVENTS COMMITTEE

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Report Reference E-24-02
Meeting Date 1st July 2024
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Town Council is responsible for coordinating the town's Remembrance Sunday events. This is supported by the Knutsford Branch of the Royal British Legion.

The 2023 arrangements were as follows:

08:45	Parade assembles at King Street Car Park
09:00	Parade sets off from King Street Car Park
09:30	Remembrance Sunday Service at St John's Church
10:30	Procession to Centennial War Memorial
11:00	Service and wreath laying at Centennial War Memorial
11:45	Service and wreath laying at the Crosstown War Memorial
13:00	Service and wreath laying at the Parachute Regiment Memorial, Tatton Park
13:30	Refreshments at the Council Offices

Until 2021, there was also a service held at the Knutsford and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital (now demolished). Since 2019, the main 11am silence has been held at the Centennial War Memorial, at that point the parade was moved to start earlier (previously setting off at 10am) to enable a church service to be held before the 11am service and the Crosstown service was moved later.

This report has been prepared following discussions with the Knutsford Royal British Legion and the OC of Knutsford Air Cadets.

2.0 ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024

2.1 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

It is notable that few children attend the 11am service at the Centennial War Memorial which for many is the core focus of Remembrance Sunday. Whilst the parade is well attended by scout groups, many of the children do not go to the church service and so don't participate in the main act of Remembrance. Few veterans attend the church service.

There have been some calls for a service to be held at the new memorial garden at Centennial Place (the site of the former hospital). Although, it is noted that this site is not a dedicated war memorial.

In 2023, very few people attended for refreshments at the end of the day. This resulted in a small waste of resources (food thrown away) and staff time. Attendance is strong for the 11am service,

smaller (but has grown) for the Crosstown service and a small core attend the Tatton Park service. By the time of refreshments, most people have gone home.

2.2 OPTIONS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The committee should consider whether it wishes to change the format of the day such that the parade leads directly to the Centennial War Memorial for the 11am service. A parade would therefore assemble around 10am. This could be preceded by a service at St John's Church.

The committee should determine if it wishes to incorporate the memorial garden on Northwich Road as part of the arrangements. If so, it should determine if this should be a service like the others, or a simpler act of remembrance e.g. the Town Mayor laying a wreath and giving a short reading, perhaps earlier or later in the day.

It is suggested that the council ceases the provision of refreshments noting the diminishing attendance.

It has been suggested that wet weather cover is provided at the Centennial War Memorial, primarily for the elderly, dignitaries and the ATC Band (which due to parading in uniform do not have the overcoats other attendees have). Knutsford Scouts could be asked to install a marquee.

The committee is invited to discuss any other improvements for the services.

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should determine if any changes should be made to arrangements for Remembrance Sunday.

Officers will then determine the precise timings and order of arrangements.