



# WAR MEMORIAL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 3/13

21 JANUARY 2013

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the latest information in respect of the proposed works on Ventnor War Memorial.

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**No.   DETAIL**

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**1)   BACKGROUND**

- a) As previously reported, the Town Council's Working Group (Councillors Harry Rees and Jim Toogood with the Town Clerk) had established a total cost for the stabilisation of the Memorial and the relaying of the surround of close to £38,000 and had accordingly submitted an application to the War Memorials Trust for the maximum 50% grant they are able to offer.
  - b) Their decision to reject the application was set out in a letter received by the Town Council on 11 December 2012 that is attached to this report.
  - c) The major ground of the rejection is the statement included in our engineer's report that the structure is not currently unstable.
  - d) So the letter suggests that an 18-month monitoring period testing the Memorial's stability be put in place.
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**2)   AVAILABLE FUNDING**

- a) Apart from the War Memorials Trust, the other available funding consisted of a designated grant towards the works of £6,500 from the Isle of Wight Council's Economic Improvement Fund (EIF) and a matching element within the Town Council's budget, a total of £13,000.
  - b) In addition, the Ventnor Branch of the Royal British Legion has committed to a funding appeal with the intention of closing the gap between the hoped for £32,000 from the War Memorials Trust and the Council funding and the target of £38,000.
  - c) Clearly, the rejection by the War Memorials Trust leaves a very large gap indeed.
  - d) The £13,000 Council funding is reduced by the £2,152 already spend on the project, mainly in fees to the Conservation Architect without whom an application to the War Memorials trust would not have been even considered.
  - e) A further issue is that the £6,250 EIF grant is currently required to be spent within this financial year.
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**3)   WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a) The Working Group members met with two officers of the Ventnor Branch of the British Legion on 16 January 2013 to discuss the next steps.
  - b) The Legion is very clear that it intends to continue raising funds to enable the whole project to proceed at a future date.
  - c) There are two very good reasons for not carrying out at this time just the repair and restoration work to the Memorial's surrounding base:
    - o if the Memorial proves to be unstable, the work will have to be undone and then redone;
    - o an estimate for this work on its own has been received at £16,750.
  - d) Councillors Harry Rees and Jim Toogood will ask the Town Council, on the basis of their agreement with the Legion, to:
    - i) fund the 18-month required monitoring at the now quoted cost of £150 for each of six quarterly site visits and measurement;
    - ii) fund the assessment by the Town Council's engineers, of the point of no return (the
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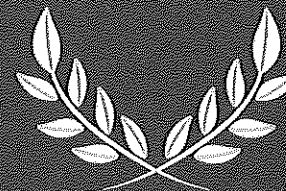
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- extent of incline that would make rescue impossible) at a now quoted cost of £300;
  - iii) retain the balance of funding currently earmarked for this project in the Town Council's budget for this year and allow it to be carried forward for potential future use;
  - iv) ask the Isle of Wight Council to agree to their EIF grant also being available for deployment when the project does proceed;
  - v) support a Press Release prepared by the Legion and issued by them to explain the developments and commit to ongoing fund raising for the project.
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#### **4) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- a)** The Isle of Wight Council are willing to allow the reallocation of the EIF grant currently committed to the War Memorial to any of the other projects approved for spend within that overall grant. In practice, if that were to happen, that would mean either or both of Public Seats or Planting.
  - b)** A further application to the War Memorials Trust remains open to the Town Council should the monitoring demonstrate a stability issue.
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War Memorials Trust

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Town Clerk Ventnor Town Council  
Coastal Centre  
Dudley Road  
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PO38 1EJ

**Our ref:** WM4864

**Your ref:**

**Telephone:** 020 7233 7356

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3 December 2012

11 DEC 2012

Dear Mr Bartlett,

**GRANTS FOR WAR MEMORIALS - Ventnor**

I am writing in response to your application dated 26 September 2012 for a grant towards the cost of works at the above.

I regret to inform you that we will be unable to offer you a grant. This is because of our concern with the proposed works. As stated on page 5 in our Guidance Notes, we cannot grant aid work that unnecessarily disturbs or destroys historic fabric. The reasons for rejection at this time are as follows:

- Correspondence received from Darren Keffe in support of the application states that whilst there is evidence of movement 'the structure is not currently unsafe' and goes on to recommend a period of monitoring.
- It is necessary to consider, after 92 years of dead load, whether the settlement has now stopped or is now insignificant. Following consultation with a structural engineer at English Heritage a monitoring period of 18 months is recommended.
- There are additionally concerns regarding the proposed structural intervention. The proposals presume that the raft is of reinforced concrete, however, this was in its infancy in 1920 and therefore is unlikely. It would be necessary to establish if it is indeed reinforced concrete before a stabilising scheme is finalised. The piling suggested will cause vibration in close vicinity of the memorial which may result in damage to the stonework. As such alternatives to piles should be considered.

I appreciate that this decision will be a great disappointment to you and I am sorry that we are unable to help on this occasion. It is open for you to reapply for a grant once you are able to supply a revised method statement and quotes. Please note that the next deadline for applications is 31 March 2013. I cannot however give any guarantee that a further application will be successful.

If you have any queries about the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Nelson'.

Ms Emma Nelson  
Conservation Officer