

# **The Breamish Valley War Memorial Steering Group**

## **Record of the Meeting held in Breamish Hall on 16th January 2018**

**Chairperson:** Graham Williamson.

**Minute Taker:** Doreen Burn.

**Attendees:** Robbie Burn, Richard Poppleton, Sid Smailes, John Carr Ellison.

**Apologies:** Wendy Pattison

### **1. Welcome**

Graham Williamson introduced everyone and welcomed them to the first meeting of the Breamish Valley War Memorial Steering Group.

The purpose of the group is to consider the proposal that a public memorial be erected in Powburn to commemorate the sacrifice of the people from the Breamish Valley who gave their lives in either of the two world wars while serving in the armed forces or directly supporting the armed forces.

### **2. Background**

Robbie Burn referred to the discussion document he had previously circulated which gave an update of the 16 months of research he has carried out so far.

There is no known local public memorial to the war dead of the Breamish Valley. In response to this, and in the context of the upcoming First World War Centenary, the Breamish Valley War Memorial Project was initiated. The first phase was to identify fallen service personnel and then to create and publish a Roll of Honour (completed Sep 2017). This will be used as the basis for the second phase – the construction and siting of a physical war memorial within the local community.

He also provided everyone with a list of the names of the fallen, in both World Wars, from the Breamish Valley. (Copy attached). Further research is required regarding R.J. Redpath. There are also two additions, James William Atkinson of Wooperton and Edward Naylen of Rosedean, both of which require further research.

The Roll of Honour, created by Graham Williamson, can be found on the Breamish Valley website [www.breamishvalley.com](http://www.breamishvalley.com). Each person on the list has a dedicated memorial page.

### **3. Location**

It was proposed that the memorial be sited in the Community Garden in Powburn. It was unanimously agreed that this was a central, accessible and secure location. A question arose as to who owned the Community Garden. It was generally thought

that John Carr Ellison still owned the land, which had been given to the community for its use.

**A.P. John Carr Ellison will consult his Land Agent regarding ownership of the Community Garden and a possible letter of agreement if required.**

#### **4. Design and Construction**

John Carr Ellison has some traditional stone gateposts, which were field gateposts removed from his land many years ago. They are currently stored in the Estate yard and used as gravestones. He is willing to donate them to the project for the memorial. The number of gateposts needed was discussed and it was decided that one, simple post should be sufficient.

As the gateposts are made from local sandstone any engraving would be short lived. It was agreed that a good quality bronze plaque would be a better, long-term solution.

Robbie Burn advised that Falon Nameplates on Barrington Industrial Estate, Bedlington have a good reputation and have designed and made nameplates for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

As it is probable that the gateposts will have holes in them, these will need to be located behind the plaque, underground or if necessary filled with molten lead. John Carr Ellison issued an invitation to the group to go and see the stones.

**A.P. Robbie Burn will take photos of the gateposts and circulate by e-mail.**

**A.P. Robbie Burn will arrange for a graphic designer to draw a couple of proposals for the memorial.**

The wording of the plaque was discussed and it was agreed to keep it simple with only the name of the individual and the village they were from. It was suggested that the plaque have a semi-circle on the top with a logo of the Cheviot Hills and the inscription "In memory of the fallen in the two World Wars from The Breamish Valley." The individuals would be listed under the relevant war dates.

**A.P. Robbie to take photos of wording on existing local plaques.**

**A.P. Robbie to approach Falon Nameplates for design possibilities and prices.**

An explanatory information board could be put in the entrance to the Community Garden directing people to the website and providing a QR code for Smart Phones.

#### **5. Planning Permission**

The consensus was that planning permission would not be needed.

**A.P. John Carr Ellison will double check with his Land Agent to see if planning permission for the war memorial is required.**

## 6. Future Proofing

The issue of stewardship was discussed. It was generally felt that the Parish Council should take responsibility for the war memorial once it has been erected.

The question of Statutory Listing was raised; the Group did not think this was necessary.

### **A.P. Robbie Burn will check whether Statutory Listing is necessary**

The War Memorial Trust advise that consideration should be given to the location and maintenance of any war memorial. It should be placed in a location where it is not going to be hit or damaged. It was agreed that the memorial should stand on a base to prevent damage from strimmers/lawn mowers etc. Gravel or pebbles from the River Breamish were thought to be the most appropriate option.

### **A.P. Robbie Burn will approach the Parish Council regarding future stewardship and maintenance of the plaque.**

The cost of the plaque should determine whether insurance is needed or not. If it is very costly then ownership of the war memorial will need to be determined.

### **A.P. John Carr Ellison will ask his insurers what the issues are regarding insurance and who should insure the war memorial.**

## 7. Funding/Costs

Robbie Burn advised that Councillor Wendy Pattison has pledged £2,000 from her council member's allowance.

The Cheviot Views Newsletter has donated £1,000

John Carr Ellison's Charitable Trust would like to make a donation.

The Aln and Breamish Local History Society would like to contribute.

### **A.P. Robbie Burn to e-mail Richard Poppleton who will present the request for funding to the Aln and Breamish local History Society.**

The Powburn Show Committee have shown an interest. A request letter will be required.

It was suggested that an open day be held for the public to come and see the research that has been done and the proposed war memorial. They will also be given the opportunity to contribute towards the project.

### **A.P. Richard Poppleton will talk to the secretary of the Aln and Breamish Local History Society regarding help with organising an open day.**

The prospective costs to the group will involve the dressing of the stone, the plaque, the transportation and erection of the memorial and the hire of the Breamish Hall for meetings. John Carr Ellison will arrange for the dressing of the stone with Johnny Clark. Sid Smalles and Johnny Clark can do the transportation and erection of the

war memorial. Payment to the Breamish Hall will be calculated at the end of the project.

## 8. Additions.

Robbie Burn advised that he intends to go through each individual on the list and the two additional names he has found to ensure they meet the Working Principles and Inclusion criteria for the war memorial, the criteria can be found on the Breamish Valley website.

He is concerned that someone may have been missed. It was suggested a letter to the Northumberland Gazette and the open day should provide more opportunities for people to come forward. As long as the plaque is engraved and not cast then further names can be added. Room should be left on the plaque for additional names.

Richard Poppleton raised the issue of women killed whilst serving in the world wars. Robbie Burn advised that he had researched, as far as possible, but could find no women. He will double check.

**A.P. John Carr Ellison will contact Sandy Hunter to find out where further information can be obtained regarding serving women killed in the World Wars.**

## 9. A.O.B.

Graham Williamson brought up timescales. A target date of the beginning of September for the erection of the war memorial was agreed.

**A.P. Robbie Burn will speak to Falon Nameplates regarding timescales for the plaque.**

The Group discussed the commemoration of the war memorial, it was decided that everyone should think about this and discuss at a later date.

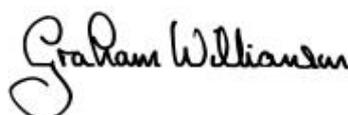
The well in the Community Garden is a safety hazard. Sid Smailes and Robbie Burn will secure it with a grate or fence.

Robbie Burn suggested a flagpole in the Community Garden. It was suggested we ask the local community for their opinion at the open day, which will be held in early summer.

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held late February. In the meantime, progress reports on action points will be e-mailed.

Signed as a true record of the meeting...

 . (Chairman)

Dated: 18 January 2018