

Agenda item number: 6

Date of meeting: 9th September 2019

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Events Committee

Report by: John Sackett

Job Title: Events Manager

Subject: United Service of Remembrance

1 Purpose of Report

Provide details of the 2019 United Service of Remembrance event organised by the Town Council which took place on Sunday 14TH July at 3.00pm

2 Background

The event is an annual Service, held since 2002, aimed at families who have recently had a bereavement and takes place in London Road Cemetery. Each year the families of those who have been interred at the Cemetery in the past two years are invited to attend. The event is also open to the general public.

3 Report on Event

The location of the site was moved to the main Cemetery enclosure. Just over 80 persons attended (compared with 35 in 2018 and just under 80 in 2017). Council provide gazebos as shelter, a public address system and refreshments for those assembled. Four Council Officers supported event

A welcome to the service as well as a poetry reading was made by The Mayor with the Service led by St Mary's Church and supported by Churches Together in Thatcham and the Deputy Mayor. An ensemble from Cold Ash Brass played musical accompaniments to traditional hymns with congregation encouraged to sing.

4 Finances

	2019/20 Predicted	2019/20 Budget
Total income	0	0
Total expenditure	1,515	1,535
Net balance	1,515	1,535

5 Publicity

The event was promoted via social media, the Town Council's website, noticeboards and press releases were issued.

6 Evaluation

The event went smoothly and the new location and set up commented upon favourably by those that have attended service in previous year. All those that attended stayed for refreshments and there were positive comments on the nature of the service as being beneficial to the bereavement process.

There is some concern at the extent of Officer time for this service with a possible solution suggested that a local charity provides refreshments with a possible donation requested for this from attendees.

Comments were made previous minutes from last year EV/2018/22 about holding more non-religious elements to the service with non-religious songs integrated and possibility of a celebrant invited.

Members are requested to give the matter of a local charity supporting the provision of refreshments and therefore reducing Officer support time and to comment on the involvement of non-religious elements for 2020.
