



## **AGENDA ITEM: 5(c)**

**CABINET: 15 MARCH 2016**

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**Report of:** Director of Development & Regeneration and  
Director of Leisure and Wellbeing

**Relevant Portfolio Holder:** Councillor J Hodson  
Councillor Y Gagen

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**SUBJECT: ROLL OF HONOUR – ORMSKIRK WAR MEMORIAL**

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Wards affected: Knowsley ward

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To confirm to Members the names on the Ormskirk Comrades Rolls of Honour for both World Wars before they added to the approved stone plaques at Ormskirk War Memorial in Coronation Park.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

2.1 That the names contained on the Ormskirk Comrades Rolls of Honour (attached to this report as Appendix A and B) be approved for use on the Ormskirk War Memorial plaques.

2.2 That the Director of Development and Regeneration and the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, to make the necessary arrangements to implement the works to add the approved Rolls on Honour onto the War Memorial Plaques.

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 War memorials are important public monuments and are highly visible and emotive reminders of past wars and the sacrifices made by the men and women of the local area. They form a key part of our social history and are by their very

nature, constant reminders to families and the wider communities of people lost during wars.

- 3.2 In 2011 Members approved the re-location and enhancement of the Ormskirk Comrades Club War Memorial to a new site within Coronation Park (Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – War Memorial, Coronation Park, Ormskirk).
- 3.3 A subsequent planning permission was granted for the siting of the war memorial, including the construction of 2 no. 1.8m high memorial walls and the hard paving area around the memorial in May 2012 (application 2012/0379/WL3 refers).
- 3.4 Phase I of this re-location involved the re-location of the stone memorial, provision of new base plinth, and new reception area. These works were completed in October 2012.
- 3.5 Phase II of the proposed works is to involve the erection of the new stone walls to be engraved with the names of the fallen servicemen taken from the Ormskirk Comrades Roll of Honour. All of these works are funded by the Trustees of the former Comrades Club.
- 3.6 Members agreed in March 2015 that the existing Roll of Honour, recovered from the Comrades Club, should be used for the names to be carved on the new memorial plaques at the memorial (Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - Roll of Honour). This would also include adding the names of the servicemen who lost their lives in World War 2.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION - PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 On the whole the names of the fallen servicemen, who fought in the World Wars, are remembered on our existing public memorials including those held in Churches and in private buildings. They were people known by their families and by local people and communities in which, they lived. I recognise that introducing or changing names on war memorials is a very sensitive matter and one which needs careful consideration.
- 4.2 Under the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, local authorities have the power, though not a duty, to correct errors in a war memorial's inscription and to add new names to make a war memorial serve for wars or conflicts subsequent to that for which it was erected.
- 4.3 Both the surviving Rolls of Honour for Ormskirk Comrades are transcribed versions, presumably from earlier ones held within the Comrades Club. The names form an important part of the Ormskirk Comrades war memorial and I acknowledge that they should form the foundation for the names to be included on the new stone plaques within Coronation Park. We understand that it is very important for communities to properly remember the fallen service men and women who gave their lives, and in doing so, we want to make sure that the existing Rolls of Honour associated with the war memorial are correct. To simply transcribe the current Roll of Honour, given the potential for mistakes, would not have been appropriate.

- 4.4 Officers have embarked on a rigorous research exercise on the names included on the current Rolls of Honour since last Autumn. This on-going work has been undertaken with the help of local historians and was collaborated by evidence obtained from various sources including the Commonwealth War Greaves Commission (CWGC). This research identified a large number of errors on both printed rolls of honour including simple spelling mistakes, missing and wrong initials, through to more significant errors in surnames and potential duplication of names recorded on the roll.
- 4.5 To assist in the collaboration of this research we carried out public consultation with the wider community to allow families of the servicemen, residents and local history group's time to scrutinise and comment upon the two Rolls of Honour. The six week consultation on the Roll of Honour began in December 2015. Any comments were made directly via email or letter to the Heritage and Environment Manager and could be done by filling in an on-line form. Undertaking a consultation exercise, in such matters, reflects the recommendations of the War Memorials Trust (WMT).
- 4.6 In total I received eleven responses to the consultation exercise, which included information on seven men on the two Rolls of Honour. This has resulted in three changes being made to the existing names on the roll and has confirmed the name of another two servicemen.
- 4.7 The research on the two Rolls of Honour has resulted in a large number of collaborated errors being rectified. In total 139 changes have been made to the 1914-1918 roll including the addition of 52 new initials, the correction of the spelling to first names and surnames of servicemen and the deletion of four duplicated entries. The WW2 Roll of Honour has had 23 changes made to rectify errors to the names.
- 4.8 The concluded research is included in the two Rolls of Honour for the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars, attached to this report (Appendices A and B).
- 4.9 The agreed names on both the Roll of Honours will be added to the stone plaques in alphabetic surname order.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS / COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report as the costs, plus project management costs, are to be met by the Trustees of the former Comrades Club.

## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 Establishing agreement on the names to be added on to the war memorial is very important. The project has involved engaging with the wider community to help collaborate the names and confirm errors on the rolls of honour before we erect the stone plaques later in the 2016.
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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is a direct impact on members of the public. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as Appendix C to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – 1914-1918 Roll of Honour

Appendix B – 1939-1945 Roll of Honour

Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment