



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT: Pontypridd War Memorial – Roll of Honour

PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:

To make proposals on the compilation of a Roll of Honour for Pontypridd, including the methodology and criteria used, for the purposes of establishing a named war memorial in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

The methodology and criteria outlined in the report, including the working principles set out at 5:1, have been adopted for the compilation and publication of a provisional Roll of Honour for Pontypridd.

Subject to the comments and feedback received, the list of names will be used as the Roll of Honour to adorn a new war memorial in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

The appropriate and necessary action will continue to be taken in order to progress the Pontypridd War Memorial project.


Chief Officer Signature


Print Name


Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

18/1/2011

DATE



OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

18/1/2011

DATE



OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

18/1/2011

DATE

Directorate:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/11
REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

<p>PONTYPRIDD WAR MEMORIAL – ROLL OF HONOUR</p>
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To make proposals on the compilation of a Roll of Honour for Pontypridd, including the methodology and criteria used, for the purposes of establishing a named war memorial in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director, Environmental Services, as described below.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1 Adopts the methodology and criteria outlined in this report, including the working principles set out at 5:1, for the compilation and publication of a provisional Roll of Honour for Pontypridd
- 2.2 Subject to the comments and feedback received, uses the list of names as the Roll of Honour to adorn a new war memorial in Ynysangharad War Memorial Park
- 2.3 Continues with the appropriate and necessary action to progress the Pontypridd War Memorial project

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 18th March 2010, the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee resolved that a meeting of stakeholders be convened with a view to progressing work to establish a war memorial in the Park, naming those from Pontypridd who have served and died in armed conflict from World War 1 onwards. Subsequently, several meetings have taken place comprising the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism and Officers from

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Pontypridd Town Council and the Royal British Legion, who are all working as partners in the project.

- 3.2 This work included the launching of a public appeal in October 2010 to raise funds for the project and this remains ongoing. Another particularly important aspect is the compilation of the list of names itself. This report sets out the methodology used and a number of 'working principles', which have been adopted.
- 3.3 Currently, there is no official Roll of Honour for Pontypridd and on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Andrew Robathan MP, has advised that this information is not available in an "identifiable format". Hence, a considerable amount of work has been required to compile the list using available sources.
- 3.4 The official record of the World War casualties amongst the British Armed Forces is held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The CWGC database has therefore been used as a starting point and a means of qualifying and verifying information acquired through other means.

4.0 METHODOLOGY OF COMPILING THE ROLL OF HONOUR

- 4.1 The CWGC provided a list of all names returned from a search of its database for "Pontypridd" in the addresses of casualties. This generated approximately 535 names although some of these were from outside Pontypridd, as defined by the former Urban District or current Town Council boundaries. These names were therefore excluded from this initial list of 535.
- 4.2 As the CWGC has readily acknowledged and specifically highlighted, this is not a complete list and therefore does not constitute a full Roll of Honour for Pontypridd. Firstly, the database itself is not exhaustive and there are genuine names that for whatever reason are likely not to be on there. Secondly, there are inevitably many valid names not included in the list generated for "Pontypridd" since for many who are recorded on the CWGC database there is no geographical origin or address.
- 4.3 Consequently, there has been a need to supplement the list provided by the CWGC and compile a Roll of Honour based on other records, local knowledge and new research. This has resulted in a provisional Roll of Honour for Pontypridd of just over 1,200 names.
- 4.4 A member of the public and former Pontypridd Town Councillor, Mr Ray Baldwin, has supplied the Council with a list of names he has compiled, together with supporting evidence for some of these. This is a result of substantial research and work that he has undertaken. This list is also the one that was published in the Pontypridd and Llantrisant Observer in 2007 as part of its campaign for a named war memorial for Pontypridd.

- 4.5 The information provided by Mr Baldwin has been subject to a verification and modification process and, whilst being largely accurate and reliable, the list in its raw form was found to contain a number of errors such as incorrectly spelt names, ranks and regiments. These have been rectified wherever possible and the result is that the vast majority of details have been satisfactorily verified.
- 4.6 This quality assurance exercise and wider research process has included the following methods:
- Using the CWGC online 'Debt of Honour' database
 - Checking which memorials and plaque already exist in Pontypridd and recording these names
 - Reviewing wartime editions of the Pontypridd Observer for reports and notices of casualties, of which there are many and this has proved a very useful resource of verifying existing names and identifying new ones
 - Official MOD records of current and recent conflicts (Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan) which have also been checked
 - Appeals to the public to contact the Council if they know of any names that should be included

5.0 WORKING PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 In order to ensure as consistent and transparent an exercise as possible, the following 'working principles' have been adopted to guide the process of compiling the Roll of Honour:
- Where a name exists on an existing memorial or plaque, its authenticity is assumed even if no other record can be found.
 - Likewise, with a press report that is clear and unambiguous, the name's authenticity is assumed.
 - The definition of the eligible catchment area is the former Pontypridd Urban District and current Town Council boundaries. For those who may have lived outside these boundaries, in some cases, where there is a clear link with Pontypridd and it is not necessarily known that they resided outside, their names have been included. A particular example is the names on the plaque in honour of former Pontypridd Grammar School pupils, which have all been included.
 - Where a person has died within a reasonable time after the end of a conflict and it is clear that they have died as a result of their service, a common sense approach has been adopted and they have been included.
 - For an outstanding number of names from Mr Baldwin's list for which it has not been possible to obtain any other form of supporting evidence, their authenticity is assumed, based on the quality assurance exercise that has been undertaken on this particular source of local knowledge.

- Advice received from both the Royal British Legion and the War Memorials Trust states that there is no formal established way of displaying the names on a war memorial. For example, there is no prescribed requirement to include ranks and regiments, which for a significant number of the names on the Pontypridd Roll of Honour are either unknown or unconfirmed. One option would be for the war memorial to list the names only, alphabetically and under a separate list for each conflict, which would reduce the scope for inaccuracies. This may require further consideration.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 In conjunction with Pontypridd Town Council, the Council will shortly publish the provisional list of names that it is proposed will constitute the Pontypridd Roll of Honour. Proactive attempts will be made to ensure this is prominent in the local media as well as being accessible on both Council's websites. The public will be invited to review the list of names and submit any comments and suggested necessary additions and / or amendments.
- 6.2 Efforts to promote and publicise the Pontypridd War Memorial Appeal - www.rctcbc.gov.uk/pwmappeal - will continue as will all other elements of the work to establish a fitting memorial to serve as a Roll of Honour for the fallen from Pontypridd.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Given that there is no existing formal Roll of Honour for Pontypridd and according to the MOD itself, this is not available in an "identifiable format", the Council and its partners have had to work with the records that are available and compile this themselves.
- 7.2 Having agreed and formalised a methodology and set of working principles, the provisional Roll of Honour can then be published for consultation. The Council recognises that ensuring the list of names is as complete and accurate as possible is an extremely important and sensitive issue although within the constraints it faces, there is the potential for the list containing some errors and omissions. However, all reasonable steps will have been taken and it is significant to note that the compilation of the Roll of Honour, and therefore the entire project, would not be achievable without tolerating some potential margin of error.
- 7.3 It is believed that establishing a permanent memorial to the names of people from Pontypridd, who lost their lives serving in the World War conflicts and those subsequent, is a worthy project and one deserving of continued support and effort. The action set out in the recommendations of this report will enable progress to be made towards achieving this objective.