

**MINUTES OF RAFA NEWARK & DISTRICT BRANCH COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES'
MEETING HELD ON 7th AUGUST 2023**

Present:		Appointment:
Gary Creswell	(GC)	Trustee - Chairman
Michael Reilly	(MR)	Trustee – Vice Chairman
Jerry Flint	(JF)	Trustee - Treasurer
Elspeth White	(EW)	Trustee - Wings Appeal
Susan Parker	(SP)	Trustee
Robin Docksey	(RD)	Trustee - Branch Secretary
In attendance:		
Allan Hildage	(AH)	Trustee – President
Dennis Atkins	(DA)	Trustee - Branch Hon Life Vice-President
Allan Brooke	(AB)	Branch Hon Life Vice President
Apologies		
Matt Cryer	(MC)	RAF LO

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
1.	Welcome and Dedication	GC
2	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from MC	RD

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
3	<p>Declaration of Interests / Conflicts</p> <p>AH – Director of the Newark Services Club (NSC) and Trustee of the Patriotic Fund.</p> <p>SP – Director of the Newark Services’ Club (NSC)</p>	AH
4	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>GC proposed and JF seconded that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record.</p>	All
5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Re the Trip organised by the Newark Patriotic Fund (NPF), only one RAFA member had applied for the trip, but the unsubsidised cost for their non-beneficiary partner proved to be prohibitive. Hence, the Branch is not now supporting any member on the trip. Any Branch members who will be attending are sponsored by NPF.</p>	AH
6	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>JF reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · BRANCH: £14,168.58 · WINGS: £1767.62 · WELFARE: £2983.38 · AT HQ: £12,023.35 · OWING FROM NSC: £1,590.08 <p>JF further requested that due to £10K limit being exceeded in the Branch account, whether £6k of it could be moved into the Welfare account. After discussion it was agreed that, JF would research whether it was permissible for those monies to be moved into the Welfare account and if so, the transfer should be made..</p> <p>There is a need to store the Branch card machine and cash safely at the NSC. It was proposed by RD and Seconded by JF that a cash box be purchased. Carried</p> <p>AH proposed and JF seconded that £250 be moved from Branch to Wing accounts. Carried</p>	<p>JF</p> <p>JF</p> <p>JF</p> <p>JF</p>

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
7.	<p>Membership, Welfare, Ceremonial, Media/Publicity</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>RD informed the committee that the Branch had 268 active members, 17 lapsed, 1 new joiner, 0 leaver</p> <p>Welfare</p> <p>Jim Robinson, HWO Balderton Branch, continues to look after Branch Welfare issues, pending the appt of a Branch HWO. DH & EW continue to support ailing members on an informal basis. AH added that the Branch still needed a Welfare Officer and efforts should continue to be made to identify potential candidates.</p> <p>Ceremonial</p> <p>AH & JF recently represented the Branch at the Sikorski Unveiling Ceremony at Newark Cemetery.</p> <p>The next event involving the Branch would be the B of B Parade & Service on 10th September 2023.</p> <p>JF was sorting the wreath for B of B and Remembrance Day on 12th November.</p> <p>Media / Publicity</p> <p>GC was congratulated on producing the Summer Edition of the 'The Newark Nimrod'.</p> <p>GC stated he would review photos for the proposed Branch calendar.</p>	<p>RD</p> <p>GC</p> <p>GC</p> <p>JF</p> <p>GC</p> <p>GC</p>
8.	<p>Recent / Forthcoming Events</p> <p>Whilst the recent Branch Summer Ball was relatively poorly attended (-30) it was agreed by all those having attended that the event was a great success. It was agreed that such events in the future needed to be more widely advertised and much sooner. AH proposed and RD seconded that a vote of thanks be given to the Chair for organising the Summer Ball. Carried</p>	<p>ALL</p>

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	<p>GC asked whether the club was doing anything to support the B of B. £200 was voted in to cover the cost of sandwiches for persons taking part in the event. The Branch had reserved the NSC for the day, but needed to know what RAF presence was attending and what support the Branch would provide for members / guests. AH undertook to obtain details from the Town Hall event organiser.</p> <p>GC stated that the Christmas / Winter Ball needed to be discussed as regards food, catering (external). It was agreed that to generate more interest and support the event could be held during the day. Additionally, the next Summer Ball should held in in June next year and needs to be planned in plenty of time.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>ALL</p>
9	<p>The Future of the Branch</p> <p>AH stated he had a real concern about the future and continuation of the Branch. There was clearly declining interest and involvement of the members in Branch activities and events as evidenced by the Summer Ball attendance. This was increasing the burden of effectively running the Branch and was undoubtedly causing stress and tensions within the Committee through overstretch. It was agreed that the Committee members need to all work together and support each other. AH asked what the Branch committee could do to involve more members.</p> <p>AB suggested that every 2 months the Branch committee meeting be opened to members and they could be asked for their ideas and increased the opportunity for greater involvement. Agreed.</p> <p>RD stated he would send a survey out by email out to members asking for their input into the Branch and what they would like to see. It was agreed that Branch committee members should consider what questions they would ask in the survey.</p> <p>AH added that in addition for the need a Branch Welfare Officer, the appointment of a Media/Publicity Officer is needed to allow the Chairman the opportunity to concentrate on the primary role. Also, it was suggested and agreed that the committee consider forming an entertainments sub-committee to oversee future social events.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>GC</p> <p>RD / ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>

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9	<p>AOB</p> <p>SP appraised the committee as to the purchase of the building by NSC. Whilst there were issues, things were moving forward.</p> <p>MO stated that he had booked 30 seats for a B of B lunch on 14th Sept at the Lord Ted, Newark should anyone be interested. It was agreed to publicise.</p> <p>EW suggested the committee provide flowers and chocolates for members significant birthdays (70, 80, 90 etc). JF proposed and MO seconded. Carried.</p> <p>AB asked whether Stella's quiz could be reinstated. It was suggested that AB organise a team for the NSC quiz nights.</p> <p>AH questioned the need for his role as Branch President and those of the Branch Life-Vice Presidents to be formally appointed as Branch Trustees with Committee voting rights rather than attending meetings in an advisory capacity. AH agreed to further research the Governance requirements and report findings at the next meeting.</p>	<p>SP</p> <p>MO</p> <p>EW</p> <p>AB</p> <p>AH</p>
11	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be on 4th Sept 23</p>	<p>All</p>