

**MINUTES OF RAFA NEWARK & DISTRICT BRANCH COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES’
MEETING HELD ON 6th November 2023**

Present:		Appointment:
Michael Reilly	(MR)	Trustee – Chairman
Elsbeth White	(EW)	Trustee – Secretary/Wings Appeal
Jerry Flint	(JF)	Trustee – Treasurer
Margaret Flint	(MF)	Trustee
Joyce Woods	(JW)	Trustee
Allan Hildage	(AH)	Trustee – President
Allan Brooke	(AB)	Branch Hon Life Vice–President
Aaron Martin.	(AM)	RAFLO
Apologies		
Dennis Atkins	(DA)	Trustee – Branch Hon Life Vice-President

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
1.	Welcome and Dedication	MR
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from DA.	EW
3.	Declaration of Interests / Conflicts AH – Director of the Newark Services Club (NSC) and Trustee of the Patriotic Fund.	AH

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
	MR – Welfare Officer of the Patriotic Fund	MR
5.	<p>Minutes of 2 x Previous Meeting</p> <p>MF proposed and EW seconded that the minutes of the 9th October meeting were a true and accurate record.</p> <p>AH proposed and MR seconded that the minutes of the 26th October meeting were a true and accurate record. AH requested a change to the minutes to specify when SP left the meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Coffee Mornings The Chairman outlined why the Branch should not move elsewhere – stating that RAFA members would prefer to stay in the NSC building after he conducted a survey of members (80% wished to stay). He concluded by stating that the RAFA identity would not be lost in the NSC building. The chair recommended we vote to stay in the NSC building. MR proposed and AH seconded. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene Christmas Tree JF ask whether the Branch should take part in the church Xmas Tree Festival. EW proposed that the Branch should support the festival and MF seconded. Carried unanimously. A payment of £27 for a 6ft tree will be made. EW & MF agreed to decorate the tree.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>EW/MF</p>
6.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>JF reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRANCH: £7,744.68 • WINGS: £0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ £4132.22 transferred to HQ. • WELFARE: £7844.78 • AT HQ: £12,053.41 	JF
7.	<p>Membership, Welfare, Ceremonial, Media/Publicity</p> <p>Membership EW informed the committee that the Branch had 261 active members, 20 lapsed, 1 new joiner, 2 leavers (overseas) and 3 who had passed. A remembrance book was suggested by AB for all those that had passed.</p>	EW

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
	<p>Welfare Paul Watson (Branch standard-bearer) attended a small gathering to celebrate the life of Barbara Chapman – Smith (WRAF nurse) at Alford near Louth. Three standards attended: Two RAFA and a British legion.</p> <p>Ceremonial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Souls (29th October) was attended by JF & MF and Paul Watson (PW), the standard bearer. Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. MR will lay a wreath and PW will be the standard bearer. The NSC building will be open for refreshments. <p>AW pledged uniformed support for the Branch if requested at events.</p> <p>Media / Publicity AH said he would publish the “NIMROD” newsletter later in the year or early 2024.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>ALL</p>
8.	<p>Recent / Forthcoming Events</p> <p>The Christmas Lunch (13th December) has reached a maximum attendance of 39 people. Raffle prizes have been purchased.</p> <p>IWM Hendon no date has been decided, except for a generalised date of March 2024.</p>	<p>EW/MF/MR</p> <p>ALL</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business / Points for Next Meeting</p> <p>Aaron Martin (AM) from RAF Waddington joined the branch as RAFLO and volunteered to help in any way he could. All welcomed and thanked AM for joining.</p>	<p>AM</p>
10.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be on 4th December 2023 at 1900.</p>	<p>All</p>
11.	<p>Open Forum at 19:15</p> <p>Eight Association Members joined the Open Forum.</p> <p>MR briefed all present on Branch Coffee Mornings, planned future functions and possible future functions.</p> <p>JF briefed the financial situation after a request by members on the banks balance and the predicted income stream.</p>	

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
	<p>It was asked whether the Branch needed the money, after relinquishing the management of the building (the discussion was embellished with past financial responsibilities of 23a London Road). The answer was that a much lower income will exist (£800p.a.), but the balance in the bank would depend on what we as a Branch could spend on functions/fund raisers in the future.</p> <p>Questions were asked how Branch funds could be spent on future functions? Specifically, whether associate members could be fully sponsored on a Branch organised event. The answer was that the rules have changed, but each circumstance must be evaluated before a decision is made.</p> <p>Specific visits and functions were mentioned: IWM Hendon, IWM Cosford, IBCC, RAF Cranwell, RAFA Cleethorpes and other such venues. The Committee promised to organise IWM Hendon and maybe Cranwell/IBCC in the new year.</p> <p>Statements, on the future of RAFA in the host building were made and suggested. People asked whether RAFA could spend money supporting NSC and other charities, unfortunately the Association policy prevents this.</p> <p>Earlier, EW mentioned that she may resign, MR asked whether anyone would be willing to join the Committee as a Secretary or other capacities? All present said they had helped in the past and it was time for others. The room all said how do we get more people to participate in the Association, especially as the demographic ages?</p> <p>AM stated that organised events are dwindling within the RAF, because of many factors: Living out, Post-Covid, Social demographics and personal preferences.</p> <p>AH mentioned that the RAF is a fifth of the size it was when he initially served (125,000 personnel) and therefore the pool of possible members has dwindled.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that post Covid, many people are reluctant to venture out during in the evenings, with the inevitable consequence on trying to organise events.</p> <p>After a lively debate, MR thanked all for attending and mentioned refreshments were available.</p>	