

**DRAFT MINUTES OF RAFA NEWARK & DISTRICT BRANCH “AGM” HELD ON  
18 FEBRUARY 2025, 18.30 AT THE BELVEDERE HOTEL**

<b>Present:</b>		<b>Appointment:</b>
Michael Reilly	(MR)	Trustee – Chairman
Joyce Woods	(JW)	Trustee – Secretary
Jeremy Flint	(JF)	Trustee – Treasurer
Lesley Ward	(LW)	Trustee
Elsbeth White	(EW)	Trustee
Margaret Flint	(MF)	Trustee
Dennis Atkins	(DA)	Trustee – Branch Hon Life Vice-President
Allan Brooke	(AB)	Trustee – Branch Hon Life Vice-President
Total Members Present:		10 total

ITEM	RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
	<b>Welcome and Dedication</b>	
1.	MR gave the Dedication and thanked all members for attending.	<b>MR</b>
	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	Apologies were received and acknowledged by email.	<b>JW</b>
	<b>Declaration of Interests/Conflicts</b>	
3.	MR – Newark Patriotic Fund.	<b>MR</b>
	<b>Review the previous years activites and to adopt objectives for the following year.</b>	
4.	The Branch has managed to survive another year thanks to the continued dedication of the committee members, which is no	<b>MR</b>

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	<p>thanks to the many local Branch members who have failed to support us going forward.</p> <p>We have now managed to secure a new venue where we hold our meeting without interference or the ears of others. We also have a monthly coffee morning along with some of the members who have decided to support us, mainly for a chat about nothing special.</p> <p>The Branch gave £2791 to Wings Appeal, but may have difficulty with collections in the future due to our aging and infirm members of the committee.</p> <p>We also had a lovely Christmas Lunch, bringing us together for a last meetup of 2024.</p> <p>As the Chairman of the Branch, I would like to mention a welfare situation that came my way in the latter part of the year. I attempted to deal with it at Branch level, but was informed by RAFA HQ that because of the rules the case had to be handed over to a designated Welfare Officer, which I accepted but was not happy about it.</p> <p>I am currently a Welfare Officer for Newark Patriotic Fund and also hold a current DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) document and cannot understand why it could not be dealt with at Branch level.</p> <p>I close this statement in the hope that the Branch can survive another year, as our existence at this time seems pointless. We receive a percentage of our members annual subscriptions but are unable to use these funds to the benefit of our members.</p> <p>The Branch has reintroduced an active social calendar with the following events completed in 2024.</p> <p>23 April 2024 – Lunch at Lord Ted  9 May 2024 – Duxford Visit (invitation from Newark Patriotics)  22 May 2024 – Coffee Morning  6 June 2024 – Mablethorpe (invitation by Newark Patriotics)  11 June 2024 – Lunch at Lord Ted  10 July 2024 – Coffee Morning  23 July 2024 – Lunch at Roman Way  14 August 2024 – Coffee Morning  24 September 2024 – Lunch at Lord Ted  23 October 2024 – Coffee Morning  16 December 2024 – Christmas Lunch</p>	

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	<p>In 2024 the Branch were also represented at several major events:</p> <p>4 May 2024 – Katyn Memorial Service, Southwell (Chair, Treasurer &amp; SB)  30 June 2024 – Armed Forces Day, Chair &amp; Standard Bearer  8 September 2024 – Battle of Britain Service (Members and Standard Bearer)  29 September 2024 – Air Bridge Operation Ceremony (Newark Cemetery)  10 November 2024 – Remembrance Parade &amp; Service (no Standard Bearer)</p> <p><b>Below are events planned for the remainder of 2025.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Coffee Mornings</li> <li>• A visit to IBCC</li> <li>• RAFA Rides</li> <li>• A visit to the National Arboretum</li> <li>• Regular RAFA Lunches to include Christmas</li> <li>• Plus, regular ceremonies including fund raising at the Armed Forces Day</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Adopt the Trustees annual report and accounts and receive the independent examination report.</b></p> <p>The reports were reviewed and accepted by all Trustees.</p> <p>The branch currently has no debtors or liabilities outstanding.</p> <p>A full breakdown of income and expenditure can be found in the Annual Accounts (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024).</p>	<b>ALL</b>
6.	<p><b>Elect Officers and Committee Members</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<b>JW</b>
7.	<p><b>Consider electing a President for a 3-year tenure.</b></p> <p>MR explained there was no requirement to elect a President.</p>	<b>MR</b>
8.	<p><b>Appoint Delegates to Area and Annual Conferences.</b></p> <p>JF and Susan Parker volunteered to attend the area conference at HQ. IAW with procedures, it was decided that JF would attend the area conference.</p>	<b>ALL/JF</b>