



The charity that supports the RAF family

RAFA Global Branch 1370 Minutes of committee meeting held on the 20th November 2022 at 1900 hours

Attendees: Mr Steve Mullis
Mr Andrew Thomson
Mr Graham Croft
Mr Gerwyn Thomas
Mrs Irene Thomson
Ms Nicky Loveday

Item 1: Apologies:

- i) Mr David Wiltshire (Treasurer), Mr David Routledge (Vice Chairman)

Item 2: Minutes of the last meeting (16th October 2022).

- i) Were read and approved with nothing outstanding

Item 3: Matters arising from the last minutes.

- i) Nil

Item 4: Chairman's report

- i) The Chairman firstly mentioned the excellent attendance at the Cenotaph of which 15 attended and 17 already booked for next year.

- ii) He will provide an update on the AGM at the next meeting (RAF Odiham) of which he will be in contact this week.
- iii) The Chairman also reported that 33014.10 had been paid to wings – including the spending on the Wings system, with 33% of this to come back into the community account. Also £220 was paid out to cover his accommodation at the area conference of which £110 was returned due to the Branch winning a prize.
- iv) He also mentioned that we now have two delegates at the conference as our membership now exceeds 500 thereby giving us two votes.
- v) Finally, he mentioned the money from Damian Harris will be put into the community account

Item 5: Treasurers report

- i) The following figures were supplied by the Secretary as the Treasurer was not present.

Ordinary account: £5024.44 (with £179.75 ringfenced for Wings appeal of which will be carried forward to next year) please also note Chairmas report

Welfare account: £359.99

Item 6: Welfare officers report

- i) "The Global Branch has been supporting the RAF Association and the RAF Benevolent Fund who are collaborating on Op RAF UNITE, a project designed to support those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq by means of connecting with them in a way that suits them, endures over time and provides them with supportive comradeship opportunities. Research suggests that 37,000 RAF-personnel served on Ops HERRICK and TELIC, with the Forces in Mind Trust suggesting that 80% of tri-service veterans are not in contact with an association/ service charity, suggesting that around 30,000 RAF veterans are not enjoying opportunities to connect with other veterans or receiving wellbeing support etc., if it is required. Many who are in need are reluctant to ask for help, and Op RAF UNITE wants to make that an easy thing to do. Many younger RAF veterans are disinclined to join associations, but a number of opportunities have been identified, including e-gaming, sports/sports events and families' events that might provide a "hook" to this group and could allow for a looser, more informal grouping to be created. The Global Branch has provided some thoughts and ideas on these areas to help inform the way forward. The Welfare Officer will feedback any updates received about Op RAF UNITE."

Item 7: Secretary's report

- i) The Secretary had nothing to report.

Item 8: Wings report

- i) The Wings member reported that the Christmas fair he has organised will be going ahead and has 10 traders lined up along with a RAFA table. Teas and coffees will also be served.

Item 9: Social report

- i) The Social member reported that she will be organising a trip to Elvington air museum and Eden Camp in Yorkshire. Details will follow asap

Item 10: Any other reports

- i) The Membership representative supplied the following figures for the branch:

Total:	621 members
Comprising:	325 ordinary
	180 lifetime
	47 associate
	69 Give as you earn

Item 11: Other Notified items

- i) Nil

Item 11.1: Items raised by members

- i) The Chairman provided an update on the annual conference as follows; AVM Nigel Bairstow (Association President) has shown great interest in the success of the Global Branch and is therefore curious why it is so successful. To this end he has asked us to canvas members with the aim to finding out why it works. The Welfare member has therefore volunteered to prepare a survey using online forms and will check with the committee before sending out to the members.
This has since been done and results will be sent to the President

Item 12: Any Other Business

As there was no other business to discuss, the next meeting will take place on 15 January 2023 at 1900 The meeting was therefore closed at 1940hrs

Andrew Thomson

Honorary Secretary

RAFA Global Branch 1370