

RAFA GLOBAL BRANCH 1370

Minutes of the Branch Monthly Meeting held remotely on Zoom
at 7pm on Wed 8th Nov 2023

Present: Steve Mullis (Chair), Graham Croft (Wings Appeal), Nicky Loveday (Welfare), Clive Simpson (Newsletter) and Gerwyn Thomas (Sec).

Apologies: Kris Mercer (Website), Dave Routledge (Social), Irene Thomson (Social), Richard Wiltshire (Treasurer)

1 Welcome/Apologies

- 1.1 Steve M welcomed everyone to the meeting and then received apologies for absences.
- 1.2 The Chairman then passed control of the meeting to the Branch Secretary.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The last minutes had been previously distributed to members on Facebook and were accepted as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising from the previous minutes.

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report

- 4.1 Steve reported that there are 15 members of the branch marching at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.
- 4.2 We currently have 6 volunteers doing next year's charity Wing Walk. One of the volunteers, Sharon Smith, is blind.
- 4.3 Although the Annual Conference Interim Report has been published, a follow-up is needed for the One Voice for All voting system to get branch members' views and Marion Wells is to relay to us the RAFA official stance.
- 4.4 There was a lengthy discussion on the lack of engagement by members to the voting on Conference issues. Thoughts were that if members felt disconnected from the Association issues, then the function of the Association should be reviewed and, in the shorter term, we should consider using available technology to allow better understanding and easier access to voting.

5 Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 In the absence of the Treasurer, Gerwyn gave the accounts balances:

Community Account	£5531.23
Wings Appeal Account	£ 165.77 (ringfenced within the Community Acc.)
Welfare Account	£ 334.68
- 5.2 As agreed at the last meeting £4000 has been transferred from the Branch Wings Appeal account to the RAFA Wings Appeal.
- 5.3 Steve stated that we are due almost £400 as reimbursement of expenses.

6 Welfare Officer's Report

- 6.1 Nicky said she had picked up a Facebook message asking about free Wills and asked that if any of us sees similar messages, please refer them to her.
- 6.2 There had been some feedback from Nick Beck about the Outreach project, which resulted in 207 members being called and 134 being spoken to. Many calls went unanswered. Of these 134, 2% were referred to caseworkers for support and some were referred to receive regular friendship calls. A lot of people appreciated the calls, even if they didn't feel they needed support. The fact that members were forewarned and were not cold called was a bonus.
- 6.3 It seems we are picking up most members who are in need of support and missing very few. Our branch is unusual in that, being an online branch, many of our members are generally more able to access the internet than members of the community-based branches, so are more able to use the help of other branch members to resolve their issues without welfare support.

7 Secretary's Report

- 7.1 There were no Secretarial matters to report.

8 Wings Appeal Report

- 8.1 Graham reported that he will receive several Santa Bear cards, a "guess the name of the bear" lottery competition.
- 8.2 Graham will also be selling souvenirs from a stall near the end of this month.

9 Newsletter Report

- 9.1 Clive said the next newsletter is progressing very well, being about 40% complete, with 6 weeks yet to go.
- 9.2 Steve tried to slopey-shoulder the Remembrance Day report onto Clive but was unsuccessful.
- 9.3 Gerwyn will submit a report on the Llantwit Major parade, the first without a significant military presence and without a band following the closure of RAF St Athan.

10 Membership Report

- 10.1 Gerwyn reported that there were currently 604 members, consisting of:

Ordinary	313
Lifetime	179
Associate	44
GAYE	68

11 Items Raised by Members

- 11.1 There were no items raised by members.

12 Any Other Business

- 12.1 The President of RAFA, Sir Baz North and his wife Lady Fiona will be present at the AGM in March.
- 12.2 Regarding DBS checks, four committee officers and trustees were appointed to undergo a check: Gerwyn, Steve, Dave and Richard. If there are any other candidates for Committee places at the AGM, it will be stated that any new branch officers will be subject to a check.

13 Date of Next Meeting

- 13.1 The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wed 6th Dec 2023.

Gerwyn Thomas,
Secretary,
09/11/2023

