

RAFA Hartlepool Branch Committee Meeting 14 July 2026

Present

Mr Paul Rodway	Vice Chairman and Publicity
Mrs J Wilson – Pinchin	Treasurer & Membership
Mr I Fraser	Secretary
Mr I Straughan	Welfare Officer
Mr D Stacey	Acting Wings Appeal Organiser

Item 1 Welcome and Apologies

The Vice Chairman welcomed all who attended to the meeting. Apologies Mr P McGraghan

Item 2 Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes from the June 2026 meeting were accepted.

Item 3 Treasurer's Report

See Annex A

The current accounts were accepted.as True.

Membership Rebate £1129.90

Item 4 Matters Arising and Correspondence

- 1 Stockton Branch Families and Community Centre located in Croft
- 2 Check on Toby Carvery and Yacht Club for Breakfast Club recommend Toby Carvery last Breakfast at Brewers For 5 September
- 3 Armed Forces Day went well Some improvements can be made for next year

Item 5 Welfare Report

See Annex B

Item 6 Wings Appeal

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the total for Wings Appeal 2026 running total stands at £1628.03 It was discussed if it would be possible to collect at other events.

Dave Stacey carried out inventory of Branch Stock Next collections ASDA Peterlee 25 July fully managed, 30&31 July TESCO Hartlepool, Middleton Grange 11&12 September and Morrisons Saturday 26 September Dave Stacey was Authorised to make purchase a new pull up

Item 7 Membership

Janice informed the Meeting As of the 14 July 2026 the Branch Membership stands at.

Life	64
Ordinary	52
Associate	19
Serving	112
Dual	
Total	247

Item 8 Publicity

Newsletter published July along with Branch Anniversary leaflets published

Item 9 Social events

Christmas dinner look for new venue, check with indoor Bowles. 80 Anniversary set up for October with at Yacht Club. Special VIP Guests See Annex C

Item 10 AOB

- 1 AFLG July Meeting Armed Forces Day went well Does the Branch have any points to bring up regarding Armed Forces Day. A Donation of £262 was given from the Fishermen's Arms towards the Valor Centre. Valor Centre slowly developing in the Town Centre Veterans 20 July Trip to Elvington 16 seater bus Quiz Night 22 July Navy Club all welcome to attend
- 2 Wednesday 29 July Paul presenting Wings Appeal Certificate to Stockton Branch
- 3
- 4

The meeting closed at 19:10

The next Branch Committee meeting will be on the 11 August 2026 6:30 pm

Annex A

TREASURERS REPORT RAFA HARTLEPOOL BRANCH INCLUDING ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 30 June 2026

ITEM	AMOUNT (£)
CHQ Deposit Account Balance as at 31 December 2025	8482
Income Interest for period 1 Jan – 31 Mar 26	21
Balance as at 31 March 2026	8503
CHQ New Court Investment Fund as at 31 December 2025	9408
Interest for period 1 Jan – 31 Mar 26 (-3.2%)	-301
Total CHQ Deposit Acc & New Fund Investment at 31 Mar 2026	17610
Branch General Account Balance as at 31 May 2026	6142.06
Income – Lloyds Bank Complaint Compensation	50.00
Expenditure – Bank charges	0.50
Branch General Account as at 30 June 2026	5718.16
Wings Appeal Account Balance as at 31 May 2026	1389.50
Income	
Sum Up –	131.90
Armed Forces Day	112.55
Expenditure – Bank charges	5.92
Wings Appeal 2026 Running Total	1628.03
Welfare Account Balance as at 31 May 2026	3264.47
Income	Nil
Expenditure	Nil
Welfare Bank Account Balance as at 30 June 2026	3264.47
RAFA Hartlepool Welfare Account Funds £3264.47	

Annex B

Welfare Officer Report 1 – 30 June 26

Please find my Report below for June 2026.

Branch Welfare Officer & Assistant Welfare Officer/Caseworker(s) (IS & PS):

Home visits – 1.

Welfare Telephone Calls (out) – 1, and one telephone call and several emails relating to an ongoing case.

Welfare Cases – 1 new case for Funeral Costs (27 May 2026), ongoing. The referral made regarding accommodation at Rothbury House is closed; no further actions.

Assistant HWO (PMcG):

Home visits – 8.

Well-being Telephone Calls – 10.

Funeral(s) – None.

Caseworker (DS):

Home visits – 2.

Well-being Telephone Calls – 3.

Funeral(s) – 1.

Welfare/Well-Being Events:

6 June 2026 - RAFA Breakfast Club (19 adults and 1 children).

Breakfast Club: Six Branch members visited the Toby Carvery at Wolviston Services on 13 June 2026, to sample their wares and the possibility of relocating the Breakfast Club to this venue.

A similar visit was made to the Yacht Club on 18 June 2026 for Brunch. However, this venue was discounted.

It was agreed by those attending that both venues that the Toby Carvery offers the Branch the best option to continue with the Breakfast Club from 6 September 2026.

RAFA Monthly Meeting & Social Evening:

9 June 2026 – 15.

Branch members continue to support other Veteran related events such as:

HUSCF (Veterans Hub Hartlepool FC) on Monday afternoons (excluding Bank Holidays):

1 June 2026 – 6.

8 June 2026 – 6.

15 June 2026 – 5.

22 June 2026 – 6.

29 June 2026 – 5.

Veterans Indoor Bowls (Indoor Bowling Centre) on Tuesdays (excluding Bank Holidays):

2 June 2026 – 5.

9 June 2026 – 4.

16 June 2026 – 4.

23 June 2026 – 3.

30 June 2026 – 1 (and he won).

Veterans Hub Quarterly Lunch (Indoor Bowls Club):

N/A

Well-being Visit to RSPB Saltholme

25 June 2026 – Ten (10) Branch Members visited RSPB Saltholme with 10 members of the HUSCF Veterans. A good day was had by all.

Armed Forces Day

27 June 2026 – 9 members manned the stall throughout the day. Four members joined the Static Parade.

Access to Welfare Reporting Module:

Ongoing.

Training (OJT):

For Welfare Officer and Assistant Welfare Officer – 1 confirmed Request for Assistance (RFA). One ongoing case for Funeral Costs. One welfare visit to a Branch member in a Care home.

Feedback from CHQ. I have received positive feedback from Welfare Region North (WRN) regarding the quality and content of the Casework submitted – no changes required.

Ian Straughan

Branch Welfare Officer

e-mail: welfare@hartlepoolrafa.com

mobile: 07751 032567

Annex C

Meeting Notes for 80th Planning Committee

Friday 3 July @ Morrisons Café

Present: Carol Appleyard, Pauline and Ian Straughan, Janice WP

Apologies: Joan Geeson

Raffle

- Carol had 31 letters ready to be posted/hand delivered to various companies/organisations requesting raffle prizes.
- Carol had also e-mailed several organisations requesting raffle prizes.
- It was suggested that instead of a raffle, the prizes are set up as a tombola (can be done in advance and no separate time needs to be taken in the events programme)

Flyers

- Due to fact flyers would (potentially) be published on social media (FB/website etc.) it was agreed to use the Branch Welfare telephone number and e-mail address for responses to be received.
- Flyers to be sent out with the July Branch newsletter (hard copy and e-mail) with responses by 31 Aug 26.
Actioned

Guest Spreadsheet

- Pauline will update the spreadsheet and note menu choices and payment.

Bank Account

- Bank account to be set up for the event for bank transfers and cheque payments.
- *Account now set up and working well.* Account details shared with 80th Planning Committee via What's App

Official Guests

- Deputy Mayor Brian Cowie and guest will represent ceremonial mayor (confirmed)
- Confirmed VIPs are: Deputy Lord Lieutenant +1, Jonathan Brash +1, Brian Cowie + 1
- Suggested that the following are invited as 'guests' of the Branch (not VIP)

Paul Hodgson – Hartlepool Armed Forces Champion

Mike Facchini – AFLG Chair

Andy Cammiss and Tony Bown – East Durham Veterans Trust

John Dauncey – Hartlepool United Football Club

Sian Cameron – RBL Chair

Photographer

- Lee Bullivant – booked. Deposit paid. Will be there all evening. We will own copyright of any photographs taken.

Standard

- Standard will be required for the evening – Speak to Dene (Janice to action)

Padre

- Father Ian Jackson to be contacted as RAF Padre is on pilgrimage (Janice to action)

Decorations

- One of the volunteers at Alice House Hospice creates fantastic table decoration ideas for the patients. Janice to speak to Dawn to see if she would be available to assist.
- Napkins – Price of printed napkins very expensive. Carol suggested creating a personalised stamp which could be used to print onto good quality napkins for the event.

Next Meeting

Discuss next meeting dates at our monthly Branch meeting on 14 July