

# MINUTES OF THE RCS OPEN MEETING HELD AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH,

Wednesday 4th March 2026

## Welcome:

Chairman Derek Turner welcomed 70 members and the speaker, Adrian Sumner.

Speaker: Adrian Sumner gave a well-illustrated talk on the history of Gamston and Worksop Airfields and how it had evolved from its aviation role the early nineteen hundreds, through 2 world wars to its present day as a technical centre of automotive innovation.

## Apologies:

Joan Garton, Anna & Andrew Avery, Millie West, Hazel & Ian Mather, Andy Massey and Irene Lewis.

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on 22nd October 2025.

All agreed they were a true record. Proposed: Derek Turner, seconded Carol Moore.

Since the previous meeting, Pam Barnsdale has been co-opted onto the committee for a year.

## Matters Arising:

There were no Matters Arising.

## Treasurer's Report & Membership: Report by Bruce Barnett

The bank balance currently stands at around £23,000 which includes the remaining £12,000, part of the donation from Michael Kay for the fountain sculpture in the park. 2/3rds of members have paid their subs, members were asked to ask PB if they were unsure if they had paid or not. BB reiterated that members were welcome to look at the Financial Report if they would like further information. PB was delighted to announce that 3 new members had joined this evening.

## Projects Update: Joan Turner

(i) 35 Year Booklet - this had been very well received by members and was a great success.

(ii) Klngs' Park sculpture - this is currently in Hull being galvanised and will be installed after it has been trimmed. The interpretation board will be mounted on a lectern to match other boards around the town. The unveiling will be a week after installation during which time it will be well plastic wrapped. The railings will be painted prior to the installation. BDC Coms department wants to make a video of the process of the sculpture and may visit the sculptor at his workshop in Wragby. Members will be kept updated in the Newsletter. The committee would like to express their grateful thanks to the donor, Michael Kay, who offered to fund the sculpture after the previous Open Meeting. His generosity will be acknowledged on the plaque. Following some public concern on Facebook, Derek said that the fish were being well cared for in another pond but it could not be guaranteed that the same fish would be returning to Retford.

## Planning Matters: Bruce Barnett

There have been no significant applications since the last Open Meeting. However, the STEP programme has asked for public feedback following recent presentations; several committee members recently attended the one in Retford. The committee decided to write to both STEP and BDC expressing our support but also our concerns at the extra road traffic this project would engender in Retford..

The street furniture separating Retford Town Square and the road is under further consideration because of the implementation of Martin's Law (this requires sufficient barriers to be in place to prevent lorries being able to ram the Square). The view of RCS is that any changes that prove necessary should be in keeping with the character of the Square.

Proposals to re-arrange the stalls are being considered by BDC.

The RCS committee has expressed concern at the state of the area immediately around the War Memorial.

After public consultation, the flagpole on the Town Hall which has now been deemed unsafe, will be replaced by 1 flagpole between the War Memorial and Rondo's.