

## **NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the 175 Meeting of the NAM Council on 22 July 2021 at the NAM Chelsea & by videoconference**

#### **Present**

General Sir Richard Shirreff (Chair), Lt General Sir Simon Mayall, Mr William Wells, Mr Patrick Aylmer, Dr Paul Schreier, Mrs Sabine Vandenbroucke, Mr Guy Perricone, Prof Jonathan Boff, Mrs Judith Donovan, Mr John Duncan.

#### **In Attendance**

Brigadier Justin Maciejewski (Director), Mr Mike O'Connor (Deputy Director, Operations & Resources), Mr Mike Robbins, Mr Richard Hughes, Brigadier Alex Potts.

#### **Item 1. Council Administration**

##### **Item 1.1 Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to his final meeting as Chair.

The Chair proposed returning to three Council meetings a year as the building for the future project had come to an end, which was the reason for the increase to four meetings a year. There were no objections.

##### **Item 1.2 Register of Members' Interests**

The Register was made available in accordance with Charity Commission advice and no amendments or additions were made.

##### **Item 1.3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from HRH the Duke of Kent, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, Mr Tim Cooke, Mr Jamie Wilson and Mr Andrew Roberts.

##### **Item 1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved as a true record. The Director updated Council on matters arising.

#### **Item 2 Director's Update**

The Director reported on footfall, online audiences and agile working for staff. Footfall was at 30% of pre-Covid figures. This was partly due to government restrictions and the requirement to book a visit online in advance which suppressed numbers. The lack of foreign tourists was also a factor and the general British public were avoiding city centres due to the pandemic. However the capacity of Play Base would soon be increased, birthday parties would resume and time slots would be widened for visitors

to either morning or afternoon bookings. The one-way system would be removed but hand sanitisers and the enhanced cleaning regime would remain. Visitors would no longer be required to provide their details and masks would be a personal choice in the Museum. The online audience had fallen but remained substantial and the digital programme would be sustained going forward. Hybrid talks would now be offered and reviewed in October.

### **Item 3. Reports from Committees**

#### **3.1 Performance, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (PA&RA)**

PA&RA reported on a positive internal audit. Topics for next year were discussed and approved by Council.

The external audit was progressing well. The NAM was too small for mandatory carbon reporting but had strong green credentials which the Committee had urged the NAM to share on their website.

The Chair of the NAMTL Board reported that the July meeting had been cancelled.

### **Item 4. Finance Summaries to 30 June 2021**

Council noted the finance summaries and was satisfied the NAM was in a good financial position.

### **Item 5. Health & Safety Report**

There were no issues to report.

### **Item 6. Any Other Business**

#### **6.1 Council Succession**

The Chair proposed General Mayall become the next Chair of Council which Mrs Donovan seconded. Gen. Mayall left the room and Members took a vote. All voted in favour and the motion was passed. Gen. Mayall would take over from Gen. Shirreff at the end of this quarter.

#### **6.2 University partnership update**

Potential partnerships with universities were discussed. The Deputy Chair briefed Council on his recent visit to Birmingham University. Council supported a partnership with UoB.

#### **6.3 Army Heritage Committee**

Brigadier Potts updated Council on the last Army Heritage Committee meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked the collective Members of Council for their time and for going above and beyond the call of any Council membership he had experienced.