

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM COUNCIL

Minutes of the 177 Meeting of the NAM Council at 1000hrs on Wednesday 23 February 2022 in the boardroom at the NAM Chelsea

Present

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

In Attendance

Brigadier Justin Maciejewski (Director, National Army Museum), Mr Mike O'Connor (Deputy Director), Mr Glyn Pryor (Head of Research & Academic Access), Mr Richard Hughes (Honorary Legal Advisor), Mr Jamie Wilson (Chair MAG), Mr Mike Robbins (Army Chief Accountant), Mr Jeremy Fowler (Army Heritage Branch), Ms Lizzy Sutherland (Clerk to Council, Minutes).

Item 1. Council Administration

Item 1.1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting.

Gratitude was expressed to Mr Aylmer as this was his last Council meeting.

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 Chapple, Professor Andrew Roberts and Mr Timothy Cooke.

Item 1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Items 2 & 3. Director's Update & Business Plan

The Director reflected on the last four years. Two years were spent reconnecting with the Sponsor and getting the programme back on track. Then the pandemic struck which set the NAM back. However the Strategy had stood the NAM in good stead and would be refreshed following the Ministry of Defence's Triennial Review on strategic operations, along with the ten-year Masterplan.

The sector was experiencing significant change and did not show signs of slowing down. Recovery would be multi-year but progress had been made on refreshing the galleries and digitally. There had been a slow but discernible improvement in footfall this year.

Item 4. Research Strategy

The Head of Research & Academic Access joined the meeting and talked through his presentation.

The ambition was to produce something that people could coalesce around which would speak to all departments across the museum. A holistic approach was key and should permeate everything the NAM did. NAM Institute could be a vibrant centre of outstanding research, harnessing symbiotic relationships with historians, curators, conservators, communications and learning in order to produce meaningful projects and collaborative partnerships. Priorities were outlined; building a base, advancing the archive, finding the NAM's distinctive voice, convening our community and developing a strong research culture. Next steps were to look at digital publishing, to get the team in place and to work with the Public Programmes team to build on showcasing Chelsea History Festival.

Council approved the direction of travel and statement of intent. The strategy would be refreshed and circulated before June.

Item 5. Donor Policy

The new Donor Policy was approved.

Item 6. Finance Summaries to 30 December 2021

The Deputy Director reported the Museum was still recovering from the impact of Covid but was in a reasonably healthy position. The NAM was financially sound going out of this financial year and into the next.

Item 7. Reports from Sub-Committees & NAMTL Board

Item 7.1 Development Committee

It was agreed clear proposals needed to be produced to attract potential funders.

Item 7.2 NAMTL Board

The Chair reported that NAMTL was in a better position than expected.

Item 7.3 Performance, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee

Council was satisfied with the recommendations.

Item 8. Health & Safety Report

Council was content with the Health & Safety report.

Item 9. Any Other Business

The Chair formally thanked Mr Aylmer for his time and engagement and said he would always be a friend of the NAM.

9.1 Investment Policy

Brewin Dolphin had been appointed as the NAM's Investment Managers of the £356K of reserves. Council was satisfied.

9.2 NAM Foundation/NAM Development Fund

It was agreed NAM Foundation would wind up. Council supported the decision.

There was no other business and the Chair closed the meeting.