

## **NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM COUNCIL**

### **Summary Minutes of the 171 Meeting of the Council on 22 July 2020** **by video conference**

#### **Present**

Gen Sir Richard Shirreff (Chair), Lt Gen Sir Simon Mayall, Mr William Wells, Mr Patrick Aylmer, Dr Paul Schreier, Mrs Sabine Vandembroucke, Ms Jessica Spungin, Mr John Duncan, Mr Guy Perricone, Professor Jonathan Boff, Mrs Judith Donovan.

#### **In Attendance**

Director, Deputy Director (Operations & Resources), Assistant Director (Enterprise), Committee Clerk (Minutes), Ms Brenda Hobday, Mr Richard Hughes, Mr Jamie Wilson, Mr Timothy Cooke, Mr. Mike Robbins.

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

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

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the Chair of NAM Development Trust, who joined the meeting as an observer.

##### **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 and Brigadier Simon Banton.

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

The Chair ran through matters arising and the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

##### **Item 1.5 Council Membership Plan**

It was noted that the Army Board had approved the appointment of Mr Andrew Roberts who would join Council as a Member in November 2020.

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

The Director walked through his presentation. The NAM reopened on 7 July and was in the first wave of museums to reopen in Britain. The online booking system was working well. Across the country visitor numbers in the sector had fallen and the NAM reflected that. The availability of outdoor spaces and reliance on public transport were all contributing factors.

The Chair passed his thanks to the Chief Army Accountant and the Army chain of command for their support and congratulated the Director on reopening the NAM.

NAM's first Fellow had been appointed and would take up her post at Oxford in October. The NAM Development Trust and NAM Foundation were thanked for their generosity along with the Army for their continued support.

The programme over the coming months would be largely digital, consolidating the NAM's presence in the digital space. The Museum would continue to evolve to ensure the Collection in its entirety was genuinely accessible world-wide.

**Item 3. Reports from Committees:**

**3.1 Development Committee**

The Chair of the Development Committee updated Council on supporting funding for academic initiatives and the wider development of the NAM.

**3.2 NAMTL**

The Chair of the NAMTL Board reported a recovery plan was in place. Various scenarios had been modelled through. Council agreed NAMTL should be supported and considered the options.

**3.3 Performance, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee**

The Chair reported the NAM had ranked highly on the internal audit. The Chairman congratulated the Deputy Director and his team.

**Item 4. Refinancing NAMTL**

This item was previously discussed under item 3.2.

**Item 5. Finance Summaries**

Council noted the summaries.

**Item 6. Health & Safety Report**

Council noted the report.

**Item 7. Any Other Business**

The Director thanked Council for their support and engagement. The Chairman closed the meeting.