

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM COUNCIL

Minutes of the 178th Meeting of the NAM Council at 1000hrs on Tuesday 28th June 2022 in the Boardroom at the NAM Chelsea

Present

Lieutenant General Sir Simon Mayall (Chair), Lieutenant General Sir George Norton (Deputy Chair), Mr William Wells, Mrs Sabine Vandenbroucke, Mr Guy Perricone, Mrs Judith Donovan, Mr John Duncan, Professor Jonathan Boff, Professor Andrew Roberts.

In Attendance

Brigadier Justin Maciejewski (Director, National Army Museum), Mr Mike O'Connor (Deputy Director NAM), Mr Richard Hughes (Honorary Legal Advisor), Ms Brenda Hobday (Honorary Marketing Advisor), Mr Jamie Wilson (Chair, MAG), Mr Mike Robbins (Army Chief Accountant), Brigadier Alex Potts (Chief of Staff Regional Command), Ms Sue Mackenzie (Council Member), Ms Lizzy Sutherland (Clerk to Council, Minutes).

Item 1. Council Administration

Item 1.1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

It was the Chair of MAG's last Council meeting, and the Council Chair thanked him sincerely for his contribution to the NAM and presented him with a small token of appreciation.

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, Dr Paul Schreier, Mr Patrick Aylmer and Mr Timothy Cooke.

Item 1.4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Items 2. Director's Performance Update

The Director presented slides (attached) to paint a picture of the challenges the NAM was facing. The cultural sector in London was on a long path (years not months) to recovery. Inflation had affected cost and demand. The labour market was turbulent, and recruitment had been difficult as it was a job seekers market. There was a sense of weariness that had set in during the pandemic. The Museum's workforce was in a fragile state. Members acknowledged this and agreed their institutions were facing similar challenges. Staff had been invited to the Global gallery launch and an away day at Sandhurst was planned for early July to help boost morale.

The impact of Covid-19 had been significant. The plan for 2022-23 was to get back on track and the Director outlined progress. Research was developing well. Two historians had been recruited with a third post to be filled. Two Junior Research Fellowships were now established

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at Cambridge, and additional Research Fellowships were in the pipeline for 2022-2023 with Kings College London and the University of Birmingham.

NAM and SAHR launched an alliance (which included NAM staff on the Board of SAHR) and were now co-sponsors of the Templer Medal Military History Prizes.

The Director ran through the dashboard for 2021-22. The NAM now has a virtual school offer which enabled the Learning Team to reach a wider audience. Dwell time for visitors to the website had increased, which was encouraging.

Priority areas of focus for 2022-23 were outlined. Supercharging revenue generation was key. The Director proposed NAMTL Board become a sub-committee of Council which could focus on marketing & communications and support the commercial team.

The Director outlined objectives for each line of development for 2022-23 to help council track progress. Reconnecting with Patrons and Members was a priority.

Item 3. Updates from Sub-Committees

3.1 Development/NAM Foundation

The NAMF Chair confirmed the NAM Foundation was in the process of being closed with the money being transferred to NAM.

3.2 NAMTL

Three new Board Directors had been acquired for NAMTL Board and all were retail/brand/marketing specialists.

The Board were reviewing auditors will have a new company in place this FY with to carry out 22/23 Audit.

3.3 Performance, Audit & Risk Assurance

Internal audit topics for next year were discussed. It was agreed diversity and inclusion would be better integrated in a recruitment review.

The Environmental Report, a new requirement from the NAO, will be reviewed regularly by PA&RA going forward.

The Chair of PA&RA and the Deputy Director would discuss the finance package again.

3.4 Collections & Research

There had been steady progress. The new Head of Art was in place and the new Head of Equipment and Uniforms had been recruited and was due to start in July.

The Director intended to bring the unrestored Lady Butler painting to Chelsea for a fundraising event for a Fellowship on Victorian Art.

Item 4. Finance Summaries to 31.03.2022

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The Deputy Director ran through end of year 21/22 Management Accounts.

The Museum was in healthy position coming out of the last financial year and into this financial year.

Investments had been steady and new managers Brewin Dolphin were providing a good service.

Item 5. Health & Safety

The Deputy Director confirmed health and safety practices continued to be monitored to ensure that the Museum was 'as far as is reasonably practicable' a safe place to work and visit.

Item 6. Any Other Business

Council approved the new Members recruited to join Council in:

2022: Prof Ali Ansari, Mr Tim Cooke & Ms Sue Mackenzie

2023: Mr Paul Davies & Mr Christopher Finney

2024: Mr Neil Johnson & Ms Katie Best

Item 6.1 Council Training

The Chair proposed holding inductions for the new joiners and refresher training for Members following the next Council meeting on 16 November.

Item 6.2 Council Army Confirmation Process

The Director informed Council that the Army Board process for confirming new members had changed. Nominations now sit under the Public Appointments Team with direction on governance from the Cabinet Office, and the Sponsor now has a greater role in the completion of the submission. Although NAM is not covered by the Office for the Code of Public Appointments (OCPA), we are an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Army/MoD and therefore have to follow this new vetting process.

The Director confirmed the Chelsea History Festival would be held from 16 – 24 September this year. The programme will go live on 14 July.

Members congratulated the Director and his team on the new Global Gallery and the launch event. Council enjoyed engaging with staff and hoped it would continue.

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