

The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992 and a charity registered in Scotland)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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All Board Members
All Management Committee Members
All Group Secretaries
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Controller REA
Corps Treasurer

06 May 2022

Minutes of the Royal Engineers Association Board of Trustees held online and at the RE Museum on Friday 06 May 2022

(a full transcript of the meeting is available from HQ REA.)

PRESENT

Maj Gen Alistair S Dickinson CBE	President REA	AD
Brig (Retd) Andy S Craig OBE	Chairman REA	AC
Col Matt Quare MBE ADC	Corps Colonel	MQ
Col (Retd) Mark Ruddy	REA Treasurer	MR
Mr Eric Hargreaves	Local Branches	EH
Lt Col Claire James RE	Group Director	CJ
Mr Jeffrey Jupp	External Trustee Governance	JJ
Mr Colin Basnett	External Trustee Service Charity	CB
Mr Brian Simm	Themed Branches	BS
WO1 Marc Elliott	Corps SM	ME

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Kenneth M Kirk	CEO RE and Secretary	KK
Maj (Retd) Ian Sidebottom	Corps Treasurer	IS

APOLOGIES

Mrs Jane Thomson	External Trustee Wider Community	JT
Lt Col Martin Heffer RE TD	Reserve Army Officer	MH
Lt Col (Retd) Larry Inge	National Branches	LI

ITEM 1. Welcome and Apologies

Action: KK circulate the contact numbers amongst board members

ITEM 2.0 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The President drew the boards attention to the declaration of conflicts of interest paperwork that they had already received and asked the trustees to declare any conflicts they may have. He advised that this issue would no longer be raised at every meeting and that it was the responsibility of each trustee to identify any conflicts to the board when they arise. AD declared a conflict of interest relating of the ocean rowing expedition and MR advised he was a consultant for the forces employment charity. MQ that he sits across all the Corps Charity boards.

Action: KK record any conflicts of interest identified in future.

ITEM 3.0 and 4.0 To confirm the minutes and matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting on 11 February 2022.

AD In terms of matters arising the President requested that the Chair of the Finance committee put together a review of our investment procedures and report back to the Board at a future date and that The CEO review the risk register along with a number of the trustees.

Action MR and KK

The museum grant will be considered later in the agenda. Following the Care after Combat presentation the CEO will continue to develop links through Cobseo with other service Charities and Associations to extend the reach of our knowledge.

Action KK and REA HQ.

ITEM 5.0 - To note the Report on Benevolence Committee of 17th March 2022

AC Advised the committee of the proceedings of the Benevolence committee and a number of recent cases. He also briefed the board in the Gabriel, Kitchener and other funds that the committee had utilised

AD thanked the Chairman for the work Benevolence committee and the importance of ensuring the Association is connected with the Corps at events and other occasions to ensure that the awareness of our services and support is expanded.

There was some discussion regarding the most appropriate methods of communicating and reaching out to units and what our commitment and capabilities are in this area. It was agreed that we are heading in the right direction but do not have the resources available to carry out the same level of interaction that may be required in the future should we consider fundraising our greater out reach and services. This is an area that perhaps will evolve in the future.

ITEM 6.0 - Board Structure

AD lead a discussion on the structure of the board going forward as we have three members of the board due to retire in September having served their full terms. The discussion covered all aspects from the diversity and inclusivity of the board, representation of regulars, reserves, veterans and families and the presence of observers at Board meetings. The President summarised the discussion by suggesting that we should produce some guiding principles for the board structure and that these should be used to for the basis of planning the succession of board members and that this should be implemented in time to select new board members.

ITEM 7.0 – Update on 2022 Budget, TAR, Investments and Letter of Representation

Letter of representation

The Corps Treasurer IS introduced the letter of representation and the board accepted this.

Extracts of notes from Auditors

IS explained the extract of notes from the auditors, there were now significant observations, with one auditor comment that the capitalisation threshold be raised from £250 to £1000.

2021 TAR and

AD asked if the board should now approve the TAR and Auditors comments – the board agreed and the accounts were signed by the Honorary Treasurer and President.

IS briefed the board on the TAR pointing out that the net worth of the charity had increased by £1.02million. Income had increased and dividends at £427,000 for the year remand really good, despite having sold £250,000 in assets. The over all value of the charity stood at £14,412,000

Budget 2022

There was some discussion over the 2022 budget with regards increases in grant and the effective of cost of living increases on Benevolence and Welfare. Despite increasing commitments the funds remain strong even after committing £500,000 for the Chatham pavilion, more than £20,000 for jubilee, £20000 for Gibraltar and the final £49,000 on the property investment.

Investment valuation

The investment general fund is at £12,123,600 and the Kitchener fund at £601,000 volatility in the markets has seen this rise and fall over the past months. Our investments remain strong the new property in Ebbsfleet returns a monthly rent of £2200 and after costs this provides a 5% yield at £2045 per calendar month. Over the coming months we are expecting between £500,000 and £750,000, with one of the largest being £397,000.

There was considerable discussion on how the Association could best use its funds in the future including investments in amenities, additional services such as provision of respite and recreational facilities and collaboration with the RECCT to provide what would most benefit the Corps and the wider Sapper Family..

It was agreed that we should continue to explore areas for cooperation and development across the Corps, while maintaining the independence of decision making regarding funding with the REA Board of Trustees.

ITEM 8.0 – REA Current Operations Brief

The CEO gave an up date on the current strategy and progress on the website, app and outreach.

The CEO explained that the current operations manager would retire in March 2023 and asked the board to consider a full time replacement with a salary in the region of £45,000 per annum. It was agreed that a job specification should be prepared on that basis.

The Museum grant request for an annual grant of £50,000 faced considerable discussion among board members with concerns about how it would be used, how the board could ascertain the value of the grant to the Association and if it should become an annual grant. It was agreed that the finance committee should make the final approval once a number questions relating to the how the museum would utilise the funds were answered and that the grant would be review annually.

ITEM 9.0 – Unit and Branch Support Grants 2022

The CEO explained that in the first quarter £17,000 of the annual grant had been allocated and that requests had and that 5 further grants were awaiting approval

ITEM 10 .0 – Grants to other Charities

The CEO proposed that a grant of £3000 was made to Veterans in Action to support their work in taking medical supplies to Ukraine. The board approved the grant.

Action KK

The President proposed that a grant of £20,000 from the Ballard fund was provided to support Jack Jarvis who had recently completed the first single handed crossing of the Atlantic Continent to continent. The board approved this grant.

Action KK

ITEM 11.0 - REA events 2022

The board was reminded of the coming events for the remainder of 2022

ITEM 12.0 AOB

It was agreed that all AOB had been raised during the earlier discussion in the meeting

ITEM 15.0 - Date of next meeting

Propose 1100 on Friday 23 September 2022 at the RE Museum and online please confirm attendance.

Signed

Kenneth Kirk

PP Maj Gen (Retd) Alastair Dickinson CBE

President REA

Date 22 September 2022