

Minutes of The King's Own Scottish Borderers Association Trustees
Meeting
Held on 11th June 2021

Present

Trustees

Colonel (Retd.) AJ Loudon MBE (Chairman and KOSB Association President)
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) CGO Hogg OBE DL
Major (Retd.) AG Horsburgh
Major (Retd) DP Sturrock TD WS
Captain (Retd.) AJD Herberts

In Attendance

Major (Retd.) L Thornton (KOSB Association Executive Officer)
Captain (Retd.) TH Duff (KOSB Association Treasurer)
Mr David Hourston (Brewin Dolphin)
Mr Colin Frame (GWA)

Apologies

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) RS Combe MBE (KOSB Association Vice Chairman)
Major (Retd.) RH Edlmann

1. President's Welcome

The President welcomed everyone to our first face to face meeting since 13 Jan 2020.

2. Investment update:

David Hourston explained there had been a positive market recently with an upward trend with economies opening after the lifting of COVID restrictions around the world.

All funds have recovered strongly since March 2020 and approach their pre-pandemic levels.

The Fund investment policy remains at risk Level 6

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2021 were approved as a true record, subject to the insertion that it was agreed that Branch allowances would not be paid for 2020 given a lack of activities available due to Covid.

Proposed: Colin Hogg
Seconded: Andrew Herberts

4. Matters Arising from previous meeting

Always a Borderer. A generous Borderer has donated £1500 in order that 53 copies of "Always a Borderer" will be donated to schools across our area. AH will arrange.

5. Finance Executive Committee update and Association Accounts

Independent Examiner Report. Colin Frame (CF), the Independent Examiner assessed the Accounts as clean with no concerns.

There were included 2 bequests from wills and balances transferred from the Malayan Veterans dinner and 6th Bn funds.

CH asked about the surplus in the NI memorial fund. It will go to welfare cases as required.

6. Benevolence update

CH briefed on the welfare position; we had 38 cases in financial year 2020-21 administered by HQ SCOTS, to date there are 4 cases ongoing in the current year.

Numbers are below previous years. COVID may be affecting requests for assistance. The funds at SCOTS remain in good health with £3000 and regular top ups from KOSB Association.

7. Museum Fund

Independent Examiner Report. Colin Frame (CF), the Independent Examiner assessed the Accounts as clean with no concerns.

DS briefed on the Accounts of the Museum Fund and spending on acquisitions.

The Museum received a grant of £3750 for the valuation of the collection, and as such is a restricted fund for that purpose. GH confirmed the visit for the valuation was imminent.

8. Museum Executive Committee update

AH briefed on the attached paper regarding:
Funding and sponsorship.
Prioritising repair of archive books and documents.
Accreditation.

Regarding the ongoing Barracks re-development project (referred to below), AL reminded everyone that in 25yrs we will not be here and that any plan for our future needs to be workable, manageable and durable (i.e have force even when there are no more living Borderers to direct any ongoing organisation).

In the event that the EH sponsored project does not deliver, the museum committee asked that they be empowered to work up fall back options. Such options will be costed and funded for long term sustainability, ideally without a need for outside income.

AL spoke on the historical lease dated 1976 and future maintenance costs and responsibilities. Some issues require clarification.

9. Barracks Redevelopment update

AL briefed on:

On Wed 9 June 2021 the partners (KOSB Association and Museum, Museums Northumberland, Northumberland County Council, The Maltings and English Heritage/Historic England) met on site to see the vision and proposed layout, all partners were present. Also present representing the Berwick Barracks Heritage Trust (an interested party rather than partner) was Sir Phillip Mawer.

The architects explained the layout and no major concerns were raised, all parties are in general agreement. There are some concerns over storage space and the preservation of original features but the English Heritage buildings representative was encouraging in his assessment of possible solutions.

Museum space is allocated to O and A blocks, the area currently occupied by the KOSB Association and Museum, with KOSB offices and storage being re-located within the site. It will incorporate the current KOSB collection and parts of the Berwick town managed Burrell collection.

The old Mob store will become a temporary cinema for the Maltings then be remade as the Berwick archive and if plans proceed, the KOSB Regimental Archive.

The old Gym will become exhibition and performance space with funding already in place.

Various funding streams are being looked at, partners will need to raise funds but EH will lead on the 'heavy lifting' of Lottery and Government grant applications. An MoU and draft vision have been produced and agreed a copy will be given to AH.

Residential development of the West range by EH is possible with the whole site being phased, however AL confirmed that the development of the East range (KOSB side) is not specifically contingent on residential development of the West range. Clearly EH wish to find a developer to take on a long term lease, undertake the conversion and therefore take on the repair and maintenance of that side of the site.

There is a sense of the partners wanting this to happen, EH want sustainability and progress is being made.

10. Association Executive Committee update

1 SCOTS.

a. Arms Plot Move. Information from 1 SCOTS is that the move to Aldershot will not take place until 2025 at the earliest. All will recall that the Battalion will need to reduce the holdings of silver and property, as both Messes will be shared with 4 RIFLES, albeit the Normandy Barracks Officers' Mess is a large 'station' mess, similar to the Palace Barracks mess. ***This has been superceded by the news that it is planned to re-role 1 SCOTS as a battalion in the new Army Ranger Regiment. The detail of this change (dates, title, location etc) will not be known until the late Autumn, and the implications for us will be discussed by the Trustees when more information is available.***

b. New Silver Member. Captain Scotty McFadden has recently assumed responsibility for the silver on loan to the Officers' Mess 1 SCOTS. He was recently commissioned from being the GSM in Edinburgh. Russell Combe (RSC) has been unable to engage with him yet, but XO has liaised with him and Scotty has completed a initial silver check.

c. Silver Check. RSC will request an update on the state of the repairs and actions requested before, which were highlighted at last year's AGM.

d. Property Member. The Officers' Mess property member is Captain Alastair Gibson. He has agreed to check all KOSB items by close of play Thursday 10 June 2021 and brief the XO, hopefully in time for the AGM. The main concern is the whereabouts of our Pipe Banners, including that of the Colonel-in-Chief.

Regimental Property Report.

e. Menorca Paintings. CO 1 SCOTS has acknowledged our intention to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the 25th Regiment of Foot occupying Menorca 1769-1725 (2019-2025) and our request that the Menorca paintings are returned to Berwick. This action, is on hold until the paintings are actually required for whatever exhibition is to be arranged at the Museum.

f. Pipes & Drums 1 SCOTS. The P&Ds that moved to 5 SCOTS in Edinburgh have disbanded. No establishment for the P&Ds was retained

when 1 SCOTS re-roled to a Specialized Infantry battalion or when 5 SCOTS reduced to Balaklava Company. On 24th May 2021, RSC, XO and Gordon Vevers visited Redford Infantry Barracks and checked the KOSB accoutrements against the Miscellaneous Stores Account (MSA) passed from 1 SCOTS. A number of issues have arisen from the visit, which will be staffed to RHQ SCOTS. In the meantime, the XO will brief the Trustees AGM on the key points and RSC will include any outcomes when he writes to RHQ SCOTS.

g. Other Loaned Items. This work recording other items on loan elsewhere was paused due to the COVID lock down and will resume in the near future. Regarding items to loan for display in the Edinburgh City Chambers, RSC re-connected with the 'City Officer' Tom Edgar, and will continue negotiations with the Council when COVID restrictions allow. All will recall the intention is for there to be a display of silver in the reception areas of items offered on loan to the City Council subject to the approval of the Trustees.

h. Quarterly Returns. No return has been received sine 14 Jan 2021 for Q3 2020-21. A point for Scotty once RSC has established comms with him.

i. Donated Silver Goblets CO 1 SCOTS has asked to retain the remainder of donated items until further notice. This was agreed.

j. 1 SCOTS WOs & Sergeants Mess. The KOSB items were checked recently by the RSM and there are no discrepancies. He also checked the Corporals Mess and all is in order.

Association Branches. All Branches were asked for their points or issues for the Trustees AGM. This is part of keeping engaged with the Branches and improving communications, particularly with the recent COVID lock down. For the Trustees consideration, the following requests were received:

k. Edinburgh Branch. Requested being able to receive a copy of the minutes of the Trustee's meetings.

l. Lanarkshire Branch. Also requested being able to receive a copy of the minutes of the Trustee's meetings.

m. Dumfries Branch. Requested to see the Association accounts and how many Borderers have responded to subscribing £25 to the Association.

AFTERNOTE: Branch requests were agreed.

Regimental Council Meeting. In order to assist communication with the Branches, RSC proposes that we could invite an official from each Branch to attend a Trustees meeting, as a form of 'Regimental Council'. RSC is an advocate of such a gathering to create a forum that embraces the whole Association. Such a meeting as a precursor to a Minden Day gathering may be a suitable opportunity.

AFTERNOTE: Agreed that a meeting should happen details to be promulgated.

Association Calendar.

n. Forecast of Events. RSC has asked XO to go through the current forecast of events planned for the Regimental Association calendar. One event, the unveiling of the restored statue of FM Earl Haig in Montreuil France, has been postponed from 11th September this year, until 2022. The date remains TBC.

o. Association Event Subsidies. As before, RSC proposed that recognised and approved Association events are granted the traditional 20% subsidy previously given towards costs. Specifically this year's all ranks Association 'Minden Day' golfing competition organised by Fred Leith and Arthur Neil, which is due to take place on Friday, 30th July 2021 at Magdalene Fields, Berwick upon Tweed. Funding was agreed, based on previous such grants.

Miscellaneous.

r. Frank Coutts Memorial Trophy. Liaison with Melrose RFC regarding the Frank Coutts Memorial annual award will take place once COVID restrictions are at Level 1 for both Edinburgh and the Borders.

s. FM Earl Haig Event in Montreuil France. All the Regiments connected with FM Earl Haig are invited to send contingents to take part in the event. We have yet to commit, however, 1 SCOTS were approached by Lord Astor and Frank Reeves apparently directed him to RHQ SCOTS, so they'll have a view. RSC follow up with RHQ SCOTS, however, it could be a good event for 6 SCOTS to support, now Lt Col Bob Stuart MBE is to be CO soon. We should encourage Association members to attend, particularly from the south. Due to COVID the event will now take place in 2022 date TBC.

11. Trustee and sucession planning

No update.

12. Minden 2021 update

Due to the current COVID restraints and varying rules across the UK, the Trustees have decided to cancel the normal Minden Parade at Berwick. This is to ensure the safety of all Borderers.

Branches are to be tasked with liaising with local authorities and where possible conduct "mini Mindens" as we did last year with some costs being met by the Association. The XO will produce a detailed instruction in accordance with Government direction.

13. Update on activities

a. Always a Borderer books- no change, 53 copies will be sent to schools

- b. VC whisky- no change.
- c. North Bridge Memorial - scaffolding is in place work ready to start
- d. Chronicle- latest edition was the largest yet and very well received, closing date for articles is 30 Nov 2021.
- e. Korea commemorations- the XO is to investigate the possibility of a parade/memorial later in year (November).
- f. Remembrance 2021- Cenotaph parade is coordinated by Gerry O'Neill details will be notified, we have bid for our usual 75 spaces.

[AFTERNOTE: RBL have allocated 70 tickets]

14. AGM

The next Association AGM will be held in Berwick date TBC.

15. AOCB

AL stated he was keen to expand the Trustees pool and welcomed suggestions.

16. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting. January 2022 (TBC).

Meeting closed at 1240hrs