

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07 DECEMBER 2016 AT THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH**

Present:

Mr Bruce Minto	Chairman
Dr Isabel Bruce	Trustee
Mr Gordon Drummond	Trustee
Mr Christopher Fletcher	Trustee
Mr Andrew Holmes	Trustee
Dr Brian Lang	Trustee
Ms Lynda Logan	Trustee
Dr Catriona Macdonald	Trustee
Mr Miller McLean	Trustee
Mr Jamie Troughton	Trustee
Ms Eilidh Wiseman	Trustee

Dr Gordon Rintoul (GR)	NMS Director
Mr David Spilsbury (DS)	Director of Finance & Planning
Ms Julie Brown (JB)	Head of Corporate Policy & Performance
Ms Ruth Gill (RG)	Director of Public Programmes (for Items 7-10)
Ms Alison Cromarty (AC)	Senior Exhibitions Manager (for Item 8)
Mr Stephen Allen (SA)	Head of Learning & Programmes (for Item 9)

Apologies:

Prof Chris Breward	Trustee
Dr Anna Gregor	Trustee
Prof Walter Nimmo	Trustee

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairman reported that the Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs) had formally invited four Trustees to serve a second term on the Board from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021, and that all four had accepted. The Chairman led the Board in congratulating Chris Breward, Gordon Drummond, Chris Fletcher and Walter Nimmo on their reappointment.

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the progress of the current Trustee recruitment round. The Board noted that the Scottish Government's timetable stated that a decision would be made by the Cabinet Secretary by the week commencing 12 December. As before, the plan is for the new Trustees to commence on 01 April.

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Chris Breward, Anna Gregor and Walter Nimmo.

ITEM 2 – MEETINGS HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 AND 12 OCTOBER 2016

2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 21 September 2016 and the note of the extraordinary meeting on 12 October 2016 were both approved.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Matters arising from the last meeting were taken under the main agenda items.

ITEM 4 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4.1 A Holmes declared his interest in the National Museums Collection Centre (ref. agenda item 11), in relation to him being a member of the Board of Historic Environment Scotland.

ITEM 5 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**NMS (2016) 53**

5.1 The Director presented his report which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted that:

- The hour-long documentary entitled *Scotland’s Treasures*, showcasing the collections and expertise of National Museums Scotland, had aired on BBC2 Scotland on 30 November and was available on BBC iPlayer.
- The National Museum of Scotland has won ‘Best Visitor Attraction’ at the Regional Finals (Lothians, Borders and Fife) at the Scottish Thistle Awards, and was now progressing to the National Finals in March 2017.

5.2 In response to a query, the Director confirmed that National Museums Scotland had not, as yet, received a formal request from the Canadian Government for the return of the Beothuk human remains.

ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL REPORT**NMS (2016) 54**

6.1 David Spilsbury presented his report which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted that:

- Current forecasts for the operational budget continued to suggest that the budget would be balanced.
- As multi-year activities, all major projects were currently on budget.

6.2 Further to the last Board meeting, David Spilsbury gave a verbal update on the UK Government’s plans for a tax relief designed to encourage the creation of more and higher quality exhibitions as well as to support the touring of exhibitions across the country and abroad. Confirmation of the specific details was awaited.

ITEM 7 – GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2017-22

NMS (2016) 55

7.1 Ruth Gill joined the meeting and presented the paper which had been circulated. She explained that, in the preparation of the Plan, she had considered: the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005; Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Guidelines; our internal capacity for Gaelic; and the results of a six week consultation exercise. R Gill reported that she had also reviewed other organisations' Plans to glean any best practice.

7.2 The Board of Trustees approved our second Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022, subject to the amendments agreed during their discussion. The next step would be for Ruth Gill to submit our Plan to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig for consideration and approval.

RG

ITEM 8 – EXHIBITIONS & TOURING EXHIBITIONS STRATEGY 2015-20: UPDATE

NMS (2016) 56

8.1 Alison Cromarty joined the meeting and presented the update which had been circulated.

8.2 The Board of Trustees welcomed the excellent progress made over the last 14 months on the Exhibitions & Touring Strategy 2015-2020.

ITEM 9 – LEARNING & PROGRAMMES STRATEGY 2015-20: UPDATE

NMS (2016) 57

9.1 Stephen Allen joined the meeting to present the update which had been circulated.

9.2 The Board of Trustees welcomed the excellent progress made over the last 18 months on the Learning & Programmes Strategy 2015-20.

ITEM 10 – NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND MASTERPLAN PHASES 3 & 4: UPDATE

NMS (2016) 58

10.1 Ruth Gill presented the update which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted:

- The completion of the National Museum of Scotland Phase 3 project and that this was the final formal update paper.
- The progress made on the National Museum of Scotland Phase 4 project.
- The decision to issue our Round 2 Submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund in June, and the requirement therefore for an additional Trustees meeting in late April/early May to give final approval prior to this.

RG, GR

10.2 R Gill gave a verbal report on the evaluations of the National Museum of Scotland Phase 3 project: one focused on visitors; and the other on internal processes. The reports were still to be finalised, but she highlighted the very high satisfaction rates reported by visitors to the new galleries and the National Museum of Scotland overall.

ITEM 11 – NATIONAL MUSEUMS COLLECTIONS CENTRE EXTENSION TO BUILDING 1 PROJECT: UPDATE **NMS (2016) 59**

11.1 The Director presented the update which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted:

- The progress outlined in the update report on the Extension to Building 1 project.
- The continued dialogue with Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council regarding the acquisition of land adjoining our site.

ITEM 12 – COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH REPORT **NMS (2016) 60**

12.1 Trustees extended their thanks and appreciation for the presentations earlier in the day on new acquisitions and rediscovered objects from:

- Stuart Allan (Principal Curator, Scottish Late Modern Collections).
- Stephen Jackson (Senior Curator, European Decorative Arts).
- Fraser Hunter (Principal Curator, Iron Age & Roman Collections).

12.2 The Board of Trustees noted the Collections and Research Report.

12.3 The Director gave a verbal update on a major grant award recently won by two of our senior curatorial staff.

ITEM 13 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 21 September 2016

13.1 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Estates Committee meeting held on 21 September 2016 had been circulated. J Troughton (Committee Chair) confirmed that the Cooling Tower replacement project at the National Museum of Scotland was progressing as planned, and the works would commence on-site in January.

(ii) Minutes of the Personnel & Remuneration Committee meeting held on 04 October 2016

13.2 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Personnel & Remuneration Committee meeting held on 04 October 2016 had been circulated.

(iii) Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 October 2016

13.3 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 October 2016 had been circulated.

(iv) Audit & Risk Committee: update

13.4 Miller McLean (Committee Chair) reported that a meeting had been held with our external auditors since the last Board meeting. The next Committee meeting was being arranged to take place early in the New Year (date to be confirmed).

**MMcL,
DS**

(iv) NMS Enterprises Ltd Board: update

13.5 Gordon Drummond (Chairman of the NMS Enterprises Ltd Board) gave a verbal update on NMSE Ltd's budget performance year-to-date and added that retail was very likely to exceed its annual target by a significant proportion. He also updated Trustees on recent consultancy activities and a film shoot at the National Museum of Flight for a forthcoming movie.

ITEM 14 – FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

NMS (2016) 61

16.1 The Board noted the Forward Programme of Business.

ITEM 15 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 There was nothing additional to report.

ITEM 16 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 08 February 2017.