

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 08 FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH**

Present:

Mr Bruce Minto	Chairman
Professor Chris Breward	Trustee
Dr Isabel Bruce	Trustee
Mr Gordon Drummond	Trustee
Ms Lynda Logan	Trustee
Dr Catriona Macdonald	Trustee
Mr Miller McLean	Trustee (items 1-7 and 11ii)
Professor Walter Nimmo	Trustee
Mr Jamie Troughton	Trustee
Ms Eilidh Wiseman	Trustee (items 1-9 and 11ii)
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 Item 8)
Mr Xerxes Mazda (XM)	Director of Collections (for Item 10)

Apologies:

Mr Christopher Fletcher	Trustee
Dr Anna Gregor	Trustee
Mr Andrew Holmes	Trustee
Dr Brian Lang	Trustee

PRELIMINARIES

The Chairman reported that the Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs) had formally invited four new Trustees to serve on the Board from 1 April 2017, and that all four had accepted. The Chairman thanked his Trustee colleagues on the Nominations & Governance Committee, Isabel Bruce and Miller Mclean, for all their hard work and help throughout the appointments process.

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Chris Fletcher, Anna Gregor, Andrew Holmes and Brian Lang.

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07 DECEMBER 2016

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 07 December 2016 were approved.

ACTION

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The Director gave a verbal update on the progress of our second Gaelic Language Plan 2017-2022 [ref. minute item 7]. Further to the last Board meeting, the draft was submitted to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig for consideration and approval. Their response was that a public consultation on the Plan should now be undertaken, and this will be progressed in the coming period.

RG

ITEM 4 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

4.1 It was noted that there were no declarations of interests from Board members in relation to the substantive items on the agenda.

ITEM 5 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

NMS (2017) 01

5.1 The Director presented his report which had been circulated. The Director gave a verbal update on exhibition visits and highlighted that the Cabinet Secretary had launched the nation's Burns celebrations at our recent *Burns Unbound* event, meeting performers and audience members.

5.2 There followed a wide-ranging discussion regarding the Galloway Hoard and the Board reconfirmed its existing position on the matter.

ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL REPORT

NMS (2017) 02

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 David Spilsbury gave another 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 still awaited.

ITEM 7 – DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2017/18: PROGRESS UPDATE NMS (2017) 03

7.1 David Spilsbury presented the progress update which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted the following:

- The 2017/18 budget was being developed, and would be balanced and ready for approval at the Board meeting on 29 March 2017.
- When the drafting is completed, the planning figures for 2018/19 and 2019/20 are expected to show potentially significant budget challenges ahead of us which imply significant future cost reductions or continued growth in self-generated income, or some combination of both.
- The scale of this challenge would be strongly influenced by the future decisions on grant to be taken by the Scottish Government.

ITEM 8 – NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND MASTERPLAN PHASE 4: UPDATE NMS (2017) 04

8.1 Ruth Gill joined the meeting to present the update which had been circulated, and the Board of Trustees noted the progress made on the National Museum Scotland Phase 4 project.

8.2 There followed a discussion on a number of matters relating to the budgeting for the Project with Trustees raising particular concerns regarding the potential for increased, unfunded costs. It was confirmed that the Project was still only in the planning stages, and that the Finance Committee would be considering the detailed costings on behalf of the Board once work on these was complete. An update would be provided at the March Board meeting, and a full review undertaken at the Extraordinary Board meeting convened for that purpose on 02 May 2017.

**RG, GR,
Finance
Cttee**

ITEM 9 – NATIONAL MUSEUMS COLLECTIONS CENTRE EXTENSION TO BUILDING 1 PROJECT: UPDATE NMS (2017) 05

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

- The progress outlined in the update report for 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 10 – COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH REPORT NMS (2017) 06

10.1 Trustees extended their thanks and appreciation for the presentation earlier in the day on the TW:eed Project (a scientific research project studying fossils and environments from the Early Carboniferous period, roughly 350 million years ago) from: Andrew Ross (Principal Curator, Palaeobiology); and Stig Walsh (Senior Curator, Vertebrate Palaeobiology). The Board expressed its enthusiasm for this excellent research to be carried on into a second phase.

10.2 Xerxes Mazda joined the meeting and the Board of Trustees noted the Collections & Research report. Xerxes Mazda then gave a verbal update on:

- A possible significant acquisition currently under discussion.
- Recent communications with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) regarding its new draft Collecting Development Policy. The Board noted its concern regarding the current scope of the proposed HES Policy in terms of clear overlap with the remit of National Museums Scotland and potentially other Collections Bodies, and it was agreed this matter should be discussed further with HES.

XM, GR

10.3 X Mazda went on to confirm that National Museums has not received as yet any formal request from the Canadian Government for the return of the Beothuk human remains.

ITEM 11 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Minutes of the National Museums Scotland Enterprises Ltd Board meeting and AGM held on 04 November 2016

11.1 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the NMSE Ltd Board meeting and AGM held on 04 November 2016 had been circulated.

11.2 Gordon Drummond (Chairman of the NMSE Ltd Board) gave a verbal update on NMSE Ltd's budget performance year-to-date in: retail; hospitality & events; and other revenue generating activities.

(ii) Minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 17 January 2017

11.3 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 17 January 2017 had been circulated.

11.4 Miller McLean (Chairman of the Audit & Risk Committee) reported on the key matters considered at the meeting including: external audit; internal audit, and the latest Risk Register.

ITEM 12 – FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

NMS (2017) 07

12.1 The Board noted the Forward Programme of Business.

ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 There was nothing additional to report.

ITEM 14 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 The next meeting will be held Wednesday, 29 March 2017.