

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2010 IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH**

Present:

Sir Angus Grossart	Chairman
Dr Isabel Bruce	Trustee
Mr Jim Fiddes	Trustee
Mr Andrew Holmes	Trustee
Mr Michael Kirwan	Trustee
Professor Malcolm McLeod	Trustee
Mr Ian Ritchie	Trustee
Mr Iain Watt	Trustee

Dr Gordon Rintoul (GR)	NMS Director
Mr Andrew Patience (AP)	Director of Finance & Resources
Ms Julie Brown (JB)	Head of Corporate Policy & Performance
Ms Fiona Bell (FB)	Director of Estates & Facilities Management (for Item 9)
Ms Catherine Holden (CH)	Director of Marketing & Development (for Item 10)
Ms Jane Carmichael (JC)	Director of Collections (for Item 12)

Apologies:

Dr Anna Gregor	Trustee
Mrs Lesley Hart	Trustee
Professor Michael Lynch	Trustee
Professor Stuart Monro	Trustee
Sir John Ward	Trustee

ACTION

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies had been received from Anna Gregor, Lesley Hart, Michael Lynch, Stuart Monro and John Ward.

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2010

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2010 were approved.

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING

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

3.2 Further to the last Board meeting, the Director provided an update on the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

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 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

5.1 The Chairman presented his report. Following the last meeting, he had enjoyed a great deal of communication with Board members, the Scottish Government, Edinburgh City Council, and other national museums and cultural bodies. He had also been engaged in activities and events with the Development team.

5.2 The Chairman reported that the anticipated National Museums Scotland public appointments round would commence on 18 June. J Brown undertook to send Trustees the web-link to the vacancy on the Scottish Government website as soon as it went "live".

JB

ITEM 6 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES NMS (2010) 16

6.1 The Director presented his report which had been circulated. He highlighted the high number of visits to the National Museums over 2009/10. At year end we were 13% above our target and 10% up on 2008/09, and ahead of the most recent Scottish attractions data.

ITEM 7 – FINANCIAL REPORT NMS (2010) 17

7.1 Andrew Patience presented his report which had been circulated. For the year ended 31 March 2010, the National Museums Scotland budget for 2009/10 showed a surplus. This reflected the baseline budget surplus and a saving on Royal Museum Project activities due to timing. These were offset by deferred project expenditure from 2008/09.

7.2 The current financial climate and the awaited Spending Review announcement were discussed, and it was confirmed that 'future resourcing' would be a key item on the Board agenda in September and November. The Chairman stated that he was very keen for formal recognition to be given to organisations, such as the National Museums, which have already been working hard over a number of years to be more efficient and effective. The Director and A Patience undertook to provide a briefing note for the Chairman for a forthcoming meeting.

GR, AP

ITEM 8 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 26 March 2010

8.1 The Chairman noted that the minutes of the National Museums Scotland Audit Committee meeting held on 26 March had been circulated to the Board. He reported on recent meetings with: Sir John Ward, Chairman of the Audit Committee, to discuss the Board Reserve and Royal Museum Project contingency monies; and also Audit Scotland regarding National Museums Scotland's Charitable Trust.

(ii) Minutes of the National Museums Scotland Enterprises Limited Board Meeting held on 25 May 2010

8.2 The Chairman noted that the minutes of the National Museums Scotland Enterprises (NMSE) Limited Board meeting held on 25 May had been circulated to the Board. Michael Kirwan, Chairman of the NMSE Limited Board, highlighted that NMSE had completed the year slightly ahead of the target budget which was a satisfactory result given the current financial circumstances. He added that a great deal of work was being undertaken by the NMSE team in preparation for the reopening of the Royal Museum building in July 2011.

8.3 The Board extended its gratitude and appreciation to Gordon Drummond for his significant contribution to the NMSE Board, and the Chairman undertook to write to him in this regard.

Chair

ITEM 9 – ROYAL MUSEUM PROJECT: PROGRESS NMS (2010) 18 REPORT

9.1 The Board of Trustees noted the progress report for the Royal Museum Project. F Bell confirmed that:

- Revised building services information for the enabling works remained outstanding.
- The main works contractors were reporting that they were on programme in relation to their revised target programme to completion issued in April 2010.
- Pre-construction activities for the exhibition fit-out were progressing with the appointed contractors.
- The current projected out-turn cost remained within the approved budget.
- Good progress was being made towards our fundraising target.

9.2 F Bell reported that Edinburgh City Council had confirmed they would be undertaking resurfacing works to the public footpath in Chambers Street in front of the Royal Museum building.

ITEM 10 – ROYAL MUSEUM PROJECT: MARKETING NMS (2010)19 & COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

10.1 Catherine Holden introduced the paper which has been circulated. The Board noted:

- The summary of the marketing and communications campaign to launch the transformed National Museum of Scotland following the completion of the Royal Museum Project in 2011.
- The outline opening events programme.

10.2 The Director and C Holden confirmed that the key aim was to establish the National Museum of Scotland as a more major visitor destination. As part of this, linkages were being created with other organisations and reciprocal arrangements being established.

10.3 The Chairman reiterated the need for the organisation to be ambitious and escalate how it presents itself to the world. Trustees offered a range of suggestions for future promotion messages and activities. C Holden confirmed that a number of the proposals mentioned were currently being researched. C Holden undertook to keep the Board updated on the reopening events programme.

CH

ITEM 11 – FEEDBACK FROM BOARD/CMT STRATEGIC DISCUSSION DAY

11.1 The Board considered the way forward following their recent strategic discussion day with the Corporate Management Team. It was acknowledged that the financial climate would have a major impact on the achievement of our strategic ambitions, and particularly the resolution of our serious estate maintenance and renewal issues. With regard to estates and storage matters, the Director reassured Trustees that the Government was aware that the Board has a statutory duty to protect the National Collections in its care as well as meeting statutory Health & Safety requirements. The Director confirmed that the revised strategic framework would be brought to the next meeting for approval.

GR, CH

ITEM 12 – REVIEW OF COLLECTIONS ACTIVITY NMS (2010) 20

12.1 Jane Carmichael joined the meeting and introduced the report which had been circulated. The Board of Trustees noted progress on research, acquisitions and loans. The positive developments arising from the increasing emphasis on gaining external grants to fund research and the growing culture of self help in the curatorial teams was welcomed. It was agreed that research undertaken by staff should provide a useful output for the organisation but that it required to be balanced with the need to support public-facing activities. J Carmichael confirmed she would be evaluating research projects to achieve a series of externally funded prospects, and that this would eventually lead to some future exhibitions.

ITEM 13 FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS NMS (2010) 21

13.1 The Board noted the Forward Programme of Business.

ITEM 14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 There was nothing to report.

ITEM 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15.1 The next meeting will be held Friday, 10 September 2010.