

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH**

Present:

Mr Ian Russell	Chairman
Ms Ann Allen	Trustee (from item 6)
Prof Mary Bownes	Trustee
Ms Mimi Brophy	Trustee
Mr Adam Bruce	Trustee
Mr Graeme Gibson	Trustee
Dr Brian Lang	Trustee (virtual)
Ms Lynda Logan	Trustee
Dr Catriona Macdonald	Trustee
Ms Jandy Stevenson	Trustee
Prof Ian Wall	Trustee
Dr Laura Young	Trustee

In Attendance:

Dr Chris Breward (CB)	NMS Director
Mr Keith Pentland (KP)	Director of Finance, Planning & ICT
Ms Julie Brown (JB)	Head of Corporate Policy & Performance
Ms Helen Ireland (HI)	Director of External Relations (for item 8 & virtual)
Dr Sam Alberti (SA)	Director of Collections (for item 9 & virtual)
Ms Ruth Gill (RG)	Director of Public Programmes (virtual)
Ms Lynn Smith (LS)	Director of People (virtual)
Mr Peter Williamson (PW)	Managing Director, NMS Enterprises Ltd (virtual)

Apologies:

Ms Eilidh Wiseman	Trustee
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PRESENTATION

Sarah Rothwell (Senior Curator, Modern & Contemporary Design) and Ali Clark (Senior Curator, Oceania) gave a presentation entitled: *Contemporary Acquisitions During the Pandemic* and invited questions from the Board. Trustees extended their thanks and appreciation for the presentation.

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies were received from Eilidh Wiseman.

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 01 DECEMBER 2021

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 01 December 2021 were approved.

ACTION

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 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 (2022) 01**

5.1 The Director presented his report which had been circulated. Highlights included:

- The good coverage and positive feedback following the media launch of our new spring/summer programme.
- The forthcoming opening of our new special exhibition, *Audubon’s Birds of America*, on 12 February.
- The appointment of the new Minister for Culture, Europe & International Development

5.2 Following a general discussion:

- There was widespread agreement regarding the importance of biodiversity in our future programming.
- Ruth Gill undertook to provide additional information in future reports regarding the participant numbers and reach of our schools’ digital sessions.

RG

ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL REPORT **NMS (2022) 02**

6.1 Keith Pentland presented the report which had been circulated.

6.2 Trustees noted:

- Current information suggested there would be a surplus.
- The budget assumptions regarding the forecasted use of Covid Consequential funding.

6.3 The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the new Hard Services contractor from 01 April.

6.4 The Chairman reported on his introductory meeting with Penelope Cooper (the Scottish Government’s new Director of Culture, Major Events & Covid Co-ordination).

ITEM 7 – DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23 **NMS (2022) 03**

7.1 Keith Pentland presented the paper which had been circulated and gave a verbal update on the most recent conversations with Scottish Government. There followed a wide-ranging discussion regarding challenges and possible options.

7.2 The Board of Trustees noted that:

- The Chairman and Director would meet the new Minister at the earliest opportunity to discuss the challenges regarding our funding.
- An updated budget, with forecasts for 2023/24 and 2024/25, would be discussed at the next Finance Committee before coming to the next Board meeting in March.

KP

ITEM 8 – DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-27

NMS (2022) 04

8.1 The Director, Keith Pentland and Helen Ireland presented the paper which had been circulated. Trustees considered and commented on the outline draft Strategic Plan for 2022-27.

8.2 The Board noted that:

- The draft Plan would be revised to reflect the discussions.
- A final draft would be brought to the next meeting in March for approval.
- Once this “core” version was agreed, it would guide how the Strategic Plan would be communicated to our stakeholders and staff.

CB, KP,
HI

ITEM 9 – COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH REPORT

NMS (2022) 05

9.1 Trustees noted the Collections & Research Report and welcomed the new illustrations.

ITEM 10 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Personnel & Remuneration Committee

10.1 The Chairman noted that the minutes of the Personnel & Remuneration Committee meetings held on 03 November 2021 (final) and 11 January 2022 (draft) had been circulated.

(ii) Finance Committee

10.2 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee held on 14 December 2021 had been circulated.

10.3 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 08 March 2022.

(iii) Audit & Risk Committee

10.4 It was noted that the next meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee would be held on 10 March 2022.

(iv) Estates Committee

10.5 It was noted that the next meeting of the Estates Committee would be held on 15 March 2022.

(v) Nominations & Governance Committee

10.6 The Chairman gave a verbal update on the forthcoming Trustee recruitment round. As before, the link on the Scottish Government website to the vacancies would be circulated to Trustees as soon as it went “live”.

JB

(vi) Acquisitions Committee

10.7 It was noted that the next meeting of the Acquisitions Committee would be held on 02 March 2022.

10.8 The Director gave a verbal report on the progress of the planned major acquisition and Brian Lang (Chair) congratulated the NMS team on all their hard work on this. The Director undertook to continue to keep Trustees updated.

CB

(vii) National Museums Scotland Enterprises Ltd Board

10.9 It was noted that the next meeting of the NMSE Ltd Board would be held on 18 March 2022.

10.10 Jandy Stevenson (Chair) confirmed that it had continued to be a challenging year, with the return of Covid restrictions in the last quarter and events being postponed again. Recovery would take time and the outlook depended on future consumer confidence.

ITEM 11 – FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

NMS (2022) 06

11.1 The Board noted the Forward Programme of Business and the Chairman highlighted a likely change in the schedule for two agenda items.

CB, RG,
JB

ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 There was nothing to report.

ITEM 13 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 March 2022.