

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021 (VIRTUAL)**

**Present:**

Mr Ian Russell	Chairman
Ms Ann Allen	Trustee (for items 1-7 and 10-14)
Ms Mimi Brophy	Trustee
Mr Adam Bruce	Trustee
Mr Graeme Gibson	Trustee
Dr Brian Lang	Trustee
Ms Lynda Logan	Trustee
Dr Catriona Macdonald	Trustee (for items 1-5)
Ms Jandy Stevenson	Trustee
Prof Ian Wall	Trustee
Ms Eilidh Wiseman	Trustee (for items 1-7 and 12-16)
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
Dr Sam Alberti (SA)	Director of Collections
Ms Ruth Gill (RG)	Director of Public Programmes
Ms Lynn Smith (LS)	Director of People
Mr Peter Williamson (PW)	Managing Director of NMSE Ltd and Director of Visitor Experience
Ms Chanté St Clair Inglis	Head of Collections Services (for item 9)
Mr John Giblin	Keeper of World Cultures (for item 9)
Ms Patsy Convery	Head of Marketing & Communications (for item 12)

**Apologies:**

Prof Mary Bownes	Trustee
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**PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairman welcomed Mimi Brophy, Graeme Gibson and Ian Wall to their first Board of Trustees' meeting. He also welcomed Sam Alberti to his first meeting as Director of Collections.

**PRESENTATION**

Lyndsay McGill (Curator, Renaissance & Early Modern History) gave a presentation entitled *'Post Reformation Scottish Kirk Silver: Moving Away from the Sacred'* and invited questions from the Board. Trustees extended their thanks and appreciation for the presentation.

**ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES**

1.1 Apologies were received from Mary Bownes.

**ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2021**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 were approved.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 The Chairman highlighted a matter arising from the minutes of the 03 February meeting. Regarding Minute 5.3, it was noted that the awaited update was attached to the June Director's Report to Trustees [ref. NMS (2021) 16].

**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 (2021) 16**

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

- The visitor numbers at the National Museum of Flight in May exceeding those for the same period in 2019.
- The National Museum of Scotland receiving a special commendation at the European Museum of the Year Awards 2020. It was one of only seven entries commended out of 61 shortlisted museums, and the only commended or winning organisation from the UK.
- The opening of the *Galloway Hoard* exhibition on 29 May.
- The success of the recent Membership reactivation campaign.

5.2 The Board noted Appendix 3 of the report which provided an update on the outcome of the deliberations on a potential future exhibition.

**ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL REPORT****NMS (2021) 17**

6.1 Keith Pentland presented his report which had been circulated.

6.2 The Board of Trustees noted that:

- We expected to show a surplus for National Museums Scotland in 2020/21.
- NMS Enterprises Ltd would show a loss.
- The consolidated accounts would show an overall loss.

6.3 K Pentland reported on the latest finance-related discussions with Scottish Government and confirmed that Audit Scotland were about to commence the annual audit of our accounts.

**ITEM 7 –STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

7.1 The Director and Keith Pentland gave a presentation on the development of the new Strategic Plan 2022-27 in advance of the Board Strategy Day with the Executive Team on 22 September. It covered the broad principles and emerging themes together with the context and planning of the Strategy, as well as highlighting the engagement thus far with the Leadership Team.

**ITEM 8 – COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH REPORT**

**NMS (2021) 18**

8.1 Sam Alberti presented the Collections & Research Report which had been circulated.

8.2 Trustees noted the report, and that a time-lag in relation to the progress of some research programmes was likely in the next 2-3 years due to the loss of access experienced under the Covid-19 restrictions.

**ITEM 9 – PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING REQUESTS FOR PERMANENT TRANSFER OF COLLECTIONS OBJECTS TO NON-UK CLAIMANTS**

**NMS (2021) 19**

9.1 Chanté St Clair Inglis and John Giblin joined the meeting and presented the paper which had been circulated. Its purpose was to define and publish NMS' approach to managing international requests for collection transfers not already covered by the NMS Human Remains Policy or the Collections Development Strategy.

9.2 B Lang (Chair of the Acquisitions Committee) confirmed the Acquisitions Committee's recommendation that the proposed procedure in the paper be approved. He added that recent events across the heritage sector meant that repatriation and restitution had become high-profile topics.

9.3 The Board of Trustees approved the procedure for considering requests for the permanent transfer of collection objects to non-UK claimants.

**ITEM 10 – SUSTAINABILITY**

**(i) Sustainable Development: Annual Report 2020/21**

**NMS (2021) 20**

10.1 Ruth Gill presented the annual report on Sustainable Development 2020/21 which had been circulated.

10.2 Trustees noted:

- The progress made in energy-related carbon emissions during the five-year period of our last strategy.
- The actions taken this year to broaden and strengthen our organisational approach to sustainable development.

10.3 Ruth Gill and Sam Alberti responded to queries regarding further biodiversity work at our sites, and climate change-related collecting and exhibitions.

**(ii) Edinburgh Declaration on The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** **NMS (2021) 21**

10.4 The Board of Trustees approved the request for National Museums Scotland to endorse the Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

10.5 H Ireland reported that a position paper was being prepared for consideration at the next Board meeting on the organisation's future endorsement of external initiatives more generally.

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**ITEM 11 – HEALTH & SAFETY: ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21** **NMS (2021) 22**

11.1 Lynn Smith presented the report which had been circulated.

11.2 The Board of Trustees noted with approval the contents of the annual report on Health & Safety 2020/21.

**ITEM 12 – ANNUAL REVIEW 2021: OUTLINE** **NMS (2021) 23**

12.1 Patsy Convery presented the outline paper which had been circulated.

12.2 Trustees noted the overall approach to the Annual Review 2021 which would be published in November.

**ITEM 13 – REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

**(i) National Museums Scotland Enterprises Ltd Board**

13.1 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the NMSE Ltd Board meeting held on 26 March 2021 had been circulated.

13.2 Jandy Stevenson (Board member and incoming Chair) reported that the NMSE Ltd accounts would be considered at their next Board meeting on 18 June.

**(ii) Personnel & Remuneration Committee**

13.3 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Personnel & Remuneration Committee meeting held on 13 April 2021 had been circulated.

13.4 Eilidh Wiseman (Chair) and Lynn Smith reported on the pay proposals received from the trade unions.

**(iii) Acquisitions Committee**

13.5 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Acquisition Committee meeting held on 05 May 2021 had been circulated.

13.6 Further to the initial overview given at the Board meeting on 11 November 2020, Brian Lang (Chair) gave an update on a potential major acquisition. Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposed action discussed earlier in the day by the Acquisitions Committee should proceed.

If matters progressed as hoped, it was noted that a full acquisition case would still need to be considered by the Acquisitions Committee and then endorsement sought from the Board of Trustees.

**(iv) Audit & Risk Committee**

13.7 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 25 May 2021 had been circulated.

13.8 Jandy Stevenson (Chair) gave a verbal update on the positive annual report from the internal auditors and on the internal audit plan for this financial year.

**(v) Nominations & Governance Committee**

13.9 The Chairman noted that the draft minutes of the Nominations & Governance Committee meeting held on 26 May 2021 had been circulated.

**(vi) Estates Committee**

13.10 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 07 July 2021.

**(vii) Finance Committee**

13.11 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 16 August 2021.

**ITEM 14 – FORWARD PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS**

**NMS (2021) 24**

14.1 The Board noted the Forward Programme of Business.

14.2 The Chairman highlighted the change in date for the next Board meeting and the addition of the Strategy Day.

**ITEM 15 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

15.1 The Board endorsed the nomination of Stuart Allan (Keeper of Scottish History & Archaeology) as the NMS staff representative on the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

**ITEM 16 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 September 2021.