

No 273

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

AT A MEETING

ON 15 NOVEMBER 2022

AT 10.00 A.M.

Present

TRUSTEES

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (Chair)
Harris Bokhari OBE
Dame Frances Cairncross DBE FRSE
Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS CBE
Hilary Newiss
Professor Dame Janet Thornton DBE FRS
Simon Patterson
Mark Read
Professor Sir Stephen Sparks CMG CBE FRS
Dr Sarah E Thomas
Sir Patrick Vallance (Chair Designate)

In Attendance

Dr Douglas Gurr (Director)
Neil Greenwood (Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services)
Dr Tim Littlewood (Executive Director of Science)
Adam Farrar (Director of Commercial and Visitor Experience, as the Engagement Representative)
Elizabeth Drakulich (Head of Resources and Planning, as the Development Representative)
Bethan Parry (Director of Strategy and Innovation)
Ayesha Kamran, (Executive Officer) (Acting Board Secretary)
Amanda Hart (Executive Officer to the Director of Board of Trustees) (Observing)

Rebecca Ball (National Programmes Project Manager), for item 7
Lorraine Cornish (Head of Conservation/Interim Head of Core Research) for item 7
Dr Sarah Long (Head of Registry), for item 8
John Jackson (Head of Science Policy and Communications) for item 8
Keith Jennings (Director of Estates, Projects and Masterplanning), for items 9 and 10
Natalie Tacq (Senior Project and Programme Manager) for item 10
Professor Ken Norris (Deputy Director of Science) for item 11

Preliminary Items:

2385 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Robert Noel.

2386 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS (TP 22/42)

Declarations of Interest and changes to the Register of Interests were made and recorded by the Board Secretary.

2387 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2022 (TP22/43)

The minutes of the meeting of the Trustees held on 5 July 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed off by the Chair.

2388 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2022

All matters arising were noted as completed or to be addressed later on the agenda.

Corporate items:

2389 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair updated the Board on Trustee recruitment.

2390 DIRECTOR'S REPORT (TP 22/44)

The Director provided an update on the activities of the Museum since the last meeting, including the Q2 Operating Plan Quarterly Review. The Board were pleased to note the increasing corporate and policy level engagement with NHM's Biodiversity Intactness Index (BII) led by Professor Andy Purvis and Dr Adrianna De Palma, including a number of Predicts for Business pilots that the team have successfully delivered to clients. The Board also noted increase in NHM social media engagement.

2391 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD APRIL – OCTOBER 2022 (TP 22/45)

Mr Neil Greenwood provided an update on the Museum's financial position and the forecast outturn for the year compared with the Original Budget for 2022-23 approved by the Trustees in February 2022. The Board noted the Report and the forecasted Operating Surplus for the year-end.

Items for approval:

2392 DIPPY LONG-TERM LOAN (TP 22/46)

Ms Rebecca Ball and Ms Lorraine Cornish presented recommendations for the next venue to host Dippy on 3 year basis. Ms Ball gave a short overview of Dippy's current run in South Kensington, recommending the preferred venue based on a number of factors including location and accessibility. The Board commented on long term plans for Dippy following the new loan agreement, noting the importance of next steps. The Board approved the recommendations, noting the importance of local specimens and stories within natural history.

2393 RETURNS REQUEST BY BY KARANGA AOTEAROA, MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA (TP 22/47)

Dr Sarah Long presented a paper on returns request made by Karanga Aotearoa, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

RETURNS REQUEST FROM ZIMBABWE BY NATIONAL MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS OF ZIMBABWE (TP 22/48)

Dr Long and Mr John Jackson presented a paper on returns request by National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe.

The Board approved both of the return requests.

The Board noted that this is a hugely important area for the Natural History Museum and agreed with the approach being pursued by the team to keep the policy and protocol under regular review.

2394 QUARTERLY COLLECTIONS REPORT (TP 22/49)

Dr Long presented the most recent updates on the Collections, identifying recent cases of maintenance within public galleries and specimens on display. The Board noted the ongoing Museum procedures that addresses maintenance.

2395 INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE (TP 22/50)

Mr Keith Jennings presented a summary of the revised terms of reference for the Infrastructure Committee. The Board approved the terms.

Items for consideration:

2396 URBAN NATURE PROJECT – WALK THROUGH OF PLANS (TP22/51)

Mr Adam Farrar introduced the working plan for the Urban Nature Project. A summary of the aims, content and key objectives were presented, including biodiversity awareness and accessibility. Mr Farrar described some of the key features, covering the journey of the East Gardens. Mr Farrar thanked the Evolution Education Trust who have helped on the project: 500 years of life on the planet.

Mr Keith Jennings reported on plans for the West Gardens, reimagining the wildlife garden, and the plans for expansion. The Museum's mission to create advocates for the planet would be supported by new classroom areas, labs and interactive outdoor spaces.

The Board commended the approach, plans and designs and noted the important of realising opportunities for interactive science and research for visitors. . They also noted the signage opportunities available, which will be picked up by both UNP Plans and the broader way-finding project.

2397 SCIENCE THEMES

Dr Ken Norris introduced our Science Themes, summarising their value in unlocking our collections through a number of practices. The board noted their strategic value in allowing NHM science to reach across audiences and embed them into planning cycles.

Dr Tim Littlewood presented the specialities of each theme alongside the changing scale of activity that allow for an integrated science system and Museum wide collaboration. The Board noted the importance of how NHM science is framed to showcase NHM expertise externally, as well as recruitment in these areas remaining fundamental in meeting the challenges.

The Board asked particular attention be paid to the use of science themes in both external and internal scientific positioning.

The Director and the Board thanked Dr Norris and Dr Littlewood for initiating and developing the critical Science Themes, an ambitious task of such scale.

Standing Items:

2398 NHM_UNLOCKED

Dr Littlewood delivered a presentational overview of NHM Unlocked, highlighting the upcoming business case. Challenges including inflation were noted by the Board. Dr Littlewood presented on the preferred options for the NHM Unlocked case, describing the ideal options for this circumstance.

Items to Note:

2399 REPORT FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Ms Hilary Newiss summarised a report on managing policies, a tour around various parts of the Museum, and the existing risks highlighted at the last session. The Board noted the transition to Mr Harris Bokhari as Chair of the committee, as Ms Newiss's second tenure as Trustee, and therefore Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee ends in December 2022.

2400 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND UPDATE FROM THE MEETING ON 1ST NOVEMBER

Professor Stephen Sparks updated on the recent Committee and recalled major topics including the status of NHM Unlocked.

2401 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND UPDATE FROM THE MEETING ON 27 OCTOBER; MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER (TP 22/52)

Apologies were received from Mr Robert Noel. Ms Newiss advised of a robust case for the Urban Nature Project and NHM Unlocked on Mr Noel's behalf.

2402 REPORT FROM NHM FOUNDATION

Dame Frances Cairncross DBE FRSE advised that the NHM Foundation was progressing with key aims, and scoping priorities connected to the Museum's 10 Year Public Space Plan. The Board noted the opportunities of a differing new interpretation this may bring.

2403 EVENT DATES FOR THE DIARY (TP 22/53)

Event dates for the diary had been noted.

2404 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

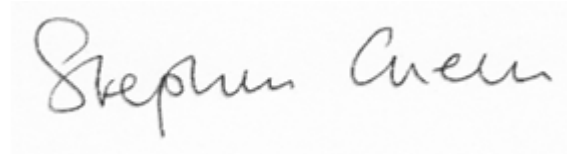
The rolling agenda for future meetings was noted. The Board noted a couple of items for consideration: Technical Debt, Collections Policy and NHM's 4-strand EDI plan.

2405 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that this would be the last Board meeting for Professor Stephen Sparks, Ms Hilary Newiss and Mr Simon Patterson. The Chair summarised their invaluable contribution to the Museum, thanking their expertise, wisdom and commitment to the vision for future and for planet. The Board collectively wished to extend their gratitude to the departing Trustees for their immense contribution and dedication to the Museum.

2406 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 21 February
- 16 May
- 5 July
- 12 September (09.00-17.00 – Annual Trustees' Strategy Day)
- 14 November

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Green". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.