

No 272

**THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

**AT A MEETING ON**

**TUESDAY 5 JULY 2022**

**AT 10.00 A.M.**

**Present**

**TRUSTEES**

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (Chair)  
Harris Bokhari OBE  
Dame Frances Cairncross DBE FRSE  
Hilary Newiss  
Simon Patterson  
Robert Noel (via video conference)  
Mark Read  
Professor Sir Stephen Sparks CMG CBE FRS  
Dr Sarah E Thomas

**In Attendance**

Dr Douglas Gurr (Director)  
Neil Greenwood (Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services)  
Dr Tim Littlewood (Executive Director of Science)  
Fiona McWilliams (Executive Director of Development)  
Dr Alex Burch (Director of Public Programmes)  
Bethan Parry (Chief of Staff)  
Jenna Birley (EO Governance and Government Relations) (Board Secretary)  
Keith Jennings (Director of Estates, Projects and Master-planning) for items 10 - 13  
Lucy Clark (Head of Design) for item 10  
Charlotte Stone (Head of Exhibitions and Galleries) for item 10  
Paul Gallagher (Programme Director, Public Spaces Programme) for item 10  
Kathryn Packer (Programme Director, NHM\_Unlocked) for item 12  
Adam Farrar (Director of Commercial and Visitor Experience) for item 13  
Dr Sarah Long (Head of Registry) for item 14

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting began with a closed session of the Board which was not minuted.

**Preliminary items:**

**2360 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Professor Dame Janet Thornton DBE FRS FMedSci FRSC.

**2361 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS (TP 22/25)**

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

**2362 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2022 (TP 22/26)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Trustees held on 17 May 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed off by the Chair.

**2363 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2022**

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

**Corporate items:**

**2364 CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair provided an update on the Museum's Trustee recruitment progress which was noted.

**2365 DIRECTOR'S REPORT (TP 22/27)**

The Director provided an update on the activities of the Museum since the last meeting and the progress on pay remit discussions with Government. The Board noted this update.

**2366 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL TO MAY 2022 (TP 22/28)**

Mr Neil Greenwood provided an update on the Museum's financial position for the period April to May 2022 and forecast outturn for the year compared with the Original Budget for 2022-23 approved by the Board in March 2022. The Board noted the report.

**Items for approval:**

**2367 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (TP 22/29A)

The Board approved the accounts for the Natural History Museum.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM SPECIAL FUNDS TRUST (TP 22/29B)

The Board approved the Special Funds Trust Annual Report and Accounts.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM BENEVOLENT FUND (TP 22/29C)

The Board approved the Natural History Museum Benevolent Fund Annual Report and Accounts. **The Board suggested the dissolution of the fund be considered (NG).**

THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRADING COMPANY (TP 22/29D)

The Board approved the accounts for the Natural History Museum Trading Company. The Board discussed and approved the appointment of Mr Mark Read and Dr Douglas Gurr to the Trading Company's Board of Trustees.

The Board noted the intention to lay the Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 before parliament in mid-July.

**2368 MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT (TP 22/30)**

The Board reviewed and approved the Modern Slavery Statement and asked that there be a detailed review as to how the Museum is performing against the statement's objectives. **Mr Neil Greenwood agreed to implement this (NG).**

**2369 APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHAIR OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

Mr Harris Bokhari OBE was nominated and approved for the position of Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. He would undertake the role at the end of Ms Hilary Newiss' tenure as an NHM Trustee in January 2023. The Board thanked Ms Newiss for her service as Chair.

**Items for discussion:**

**2370 PUBLIC SPACES PLAN (PSP) (TP 22/31)**

Dr Alex Burch presented an update on the PSP to the Board, providing context to decision making thus far and the general direction of travel. The PSP aims to complete a refresh of the Museum's gallery spaces, including significant improvements to the overall visitor experience. Members of the Board were asked to consider the presentation and provide feedback.

The Board asked that particular attention be paid to 'soft spots' when redeveloping gallery spaces to ensure proper interconnectivity throughout the building.

The Board noted the importance of ensuring microscopic science is represented in the public spaces, as it is an important part of the Museum's work. Similarly, the incorporation of digital science and technology into gallery spaces was recognised as important to include when redeveloping spaces. They also recognised the PSP as an opportunity to increase the Museum's engagement with key external partners.

The Board suggested that new exhibitions and displays should encourage visitors to become advocates for the planet in a variety of ways.

The Board were asked to be mindful that the PSP will necessitate construction work so will affect the appearance of the Museum. They were also asked to note that it will create two new outdoor visitor spaces which the Museum will be able to include in the overall visitor numbers.

**2371 TRUSTEE STRATEGY DAY ITEMS**

The Board discussed the agenda for their upcoming strategy day in September 2022. It was agreed that the principal discussion topics would be equality, diversity and inclusion, policy and influence, and masterplanning. The Science Themes were considered as an additional item, but Members agreed instead to discuss this as an agenda item at their November meeting.

**Regular updates:**

**2372 NHM\_UNLOCKED**

Mr Keith Jennings presented an update on the NHM\_Unlocked programme, outlining the progress of conversations with the University of Reading. The Board noted the update.

**2373 URBAN NATURE PROJECT (UNP) UPDATE (TP 22/32)**

Mr Adam Farrar, Mr Jennings and Ms Fiona McWilliams provided an update on the UNP which was noted by the Board. It was agreed that a more detailed update, including an insight to the visitor journey, narrative and design would be presented at the next Board of Trustees meeting in November 2022.

**2374 QUARTERLY COLLECTIONS UPDATE (TP 22/33C)**

Dr Sarah Long gave the quarterly update on collections which noted by the Board.

**REQUEST FOR THE RETURN OF IWI KŪPUNA BY HUI IWI KIAMO'O (TP 22/33A)**

Dr Sarah Long informed the Board of a recent request for the return of human remains made by Hui Iwi Kiamo'o. The return was approved by the Board.

**INTERIM UPDATE ON COLLECTIONS GOVERNANCE (TP 22/33B)**

Dr Sarah Long provided an update on changes to collections governance at the Museum which was approved by the Board.

**Annual Reports for Noting:**

**2375 ANNUAL ASSURANCE TO THE ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 2021/22 (TP 22/34)**

The Board noted the report.

**2376 ANNUAL REVIEW OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY 2021/22 (TP 22/35)**

The Board noted the report.

**Committee Reports:**

**2377 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 3 MAY (TP 22/36)**

Mr Robert Noel briefed the Board on the recent Infrastructure Committee meeting which was noted.

**2378 REPORT FROM THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2022**

The Board noted the report.

**2379 REPORT FROM THE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2022 (TP 22/37)**

The Board noted the verbal report from Professor Sir Stephen Sparks and the minutes of the meeting provided.

**2380 NHM FOUNDATION UPDATE (TP 22/38)**

Dame Frances Cairncross DBE FRSE provided an update on the NHM Foundation which was noted by the Board.

**Other reports:**

**2381 EVENT DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Event dates for the diary were noted.

**2382 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

The rolling agenda for future meetings was noted.

**2383 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board were informed that this would be Ms Fiona McWilliams' last Board meeting as she would be leaving the Museum in August. The Board wished to note their thanks to Fiona for her hard work and dedication throughout her time at the Museum and wished her the best for the future.

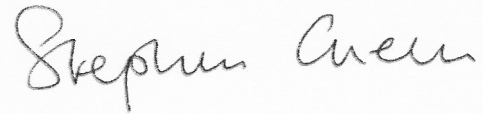
**2384 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**2022**

- 6 October (09.00-17.00 – Annual Trustees' Strategy Day)
- 15 November

**2023**

- 21 February
- 16 May
- 11 July

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Stephen Allen" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.