

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom, The Dean Gallery, Belford Road, Edinburgh on Monday 5 October 2009 at 1400 hrs.

Present:

Ben Thomson, Chairman	
Ian Barr	Herbert Coutts
James Dawnay	Anne Bonnar
Professor Richard Thomson	Alasdair Morton
James Knox	Richard Burns
Ruth Wishart	Ray MacFarlane

In Attendance:

John Leighton, Director-General	Jacqueline Ridge
Nicola Catterall	Michael Clarke
James Holloway	Catrin Tilley
Philip Long (item 5 only)	

Apologies:

Marc Ellington
Simon Groom

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Action

1 Chairman's Business

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The new format for the minutes was noted, with the agenda being split into open and reserved business. Only the minutes from open business would be published on the website.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 1 June 2009 (revised)

The revised minute of the meeting of 1 June was approved with one minor amendment. The public minute was now ready to be put on the website.

EA

2.2 Minute of the Meeting of 3 August 2009

The minute of the meeting of 3 August was approved.

2.3 Minute of the Special Meeting of 3 September 2009

The minute of the special meeting of 3 September 2009 (to discuss the Portrait Gallery project) was circulated, to be discussed and formally approved at the next meeting. EA

2.4 **Sub-Committee Minutes**

Trustees agreed that they would still like to receive full minutes of all sub-committee meetings for their reference. EA

It was agreed that sub-committee minutes would not be shared publicly.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 **Budget Scenarios**

It was noted that, following the recent government cuts, budget scenarios would be produced for discussion at the next meeting. The detail would be discussed through the Audit & Risk Committee in advance of that meeting. AM

4 **Director-General's Report**

Mr Leighton thanked Mr Knox for managing the Kilmarnock event. It had been an excellent opportunity for fundraising and partnership.

The Pay Negotiations Committee was congratulated on bringing negotiations to successful conclusion. It was noted that the appraisal process was key to the success of the new pay system.

Colleagues discussed the level of visitor numbers at the Dean and GMA. It was noted that the concept of Artist Rooms and free access to the collection meant that there was little funding for promotion, compared to using income from paying shows for this purpose in the past. Colleagues expressed concern that the local impact of Artist Rooms had not been as great as it would have been with additional funding for promotion.

Ms Wishart joined the meeting.

4.1 **Public Services Reform Bill**

Trustee discussed progress with the PSR Bill and the recent submission of evidence from NMS and NGS. It was noted that NLS was also now on board with the

discussions and NMS was leading negotiations on behalf of the national collections.

4.2 Paolozzi Medals Policy

Following discussion, it was agreed that Paolozzi medals in future would be gifted only in recognition of exceptional contribution to NGS and with the approval of the trustees. Recommendations would be made to the trustees by the Chairman and Director-General.

It was noted that a medal had been offered to Arnie Glimcher in recognition of the recent gift of a work by Agnes Martin.

5 Partnership Policy

5.1 Museum Think Tank

Mr Leighton reported on the first meeting of the new museums think tank, chaired by the Minister and of which he was a member. The group had representation from eight museums and galleries at local, regional and national level. The aim was to advise the Minister on policy development

Colleagues discussed partnership strategy, in particular current initiatives being explored with Glasgow. It was important to ensure that this, along with the international dimension, was taken into account in government thinking.

5.2 Artist Rooms

Philip Long joined the meeting and outlined the work carried out to date on the Artist Rooms project in relation to partnership. It was noted that the UK programme for 2010 would be launched on 2 December. It was noted also that an element of the collection would be displayed at the Scottish Parliament.

Trustees noted the profile and success of Artist Rooms across the UK and considered that the profile locally was much lower. This was due to a lack of funding to sustain promotion of the collection. It was agreed that there was a need to keep up public momentum and raise the profile through whatever means were available.

Overall, trustees were very supportive of the programme and looked forward to the many more partnership opportunities which this collection offered.

6 **Board of Trustees Sub Committees: Terms of Reference & Membership**

6.1 **Board of Trustees**

Trustees requested that they met informally once or twice per year without the directors present, in recognition of the fact that members of the Senior Management Team were not members of the Board. This would also give the Board the opportunity to reflect on the performance of the Senior Management Team. BT/EA

Amendments:

- build into the terms of reference a link to the seven principles of public life along with the ambassadorial role of the trustee.
 - any two trustees should be able to call a meeting of the Board.
 - delete the term “pecuniary” from the declaration of interest section and also not necessarily exclude someone from a discussion if they have declared an interest.
- EA

6.2 **Audit & Risk Committee**

Overlap between the financial reporting duty of the Audit & Risk Committee and Remuneration Committee in relation to trustee expenses to be clarified. EA

6.3 **Board Review Committee**

Approved.

6.4 **Trading Company Board**

There was broad discussion on the terms of reference for the trading company board and it was concluded that any comments should be fed into Ms Catterall and the document brought back to the next meeting for ratification. All
NC/EA

7 **Gallery and Department Reports**

7.1 **National Gallery**

Report noted. Trustees noted the imminent opening of the new restaurant and the formal launch in November.

7.2 Portrait Gallery

Report noted. Trustees were encouraged to visit staff at their temporary premises at Baden Powell House.

7.3 Gallery of Modern Art

It was noted that when the Artist Rooms programme for 2010 was launched in December it was planned also to announce the additional gifts to the collection.

Trustees were asked to note progress with the installation of recent commissions. The Gormley had planning permission and would likely be installed in early-spring 2010. The installation costs for the Creed and the Coley had increased considerably, therefore a choice had been made to install only the Coley and use the funding previously allocated to the Creed to support the additional costs. The Coley would be installed in the next two weeks in the grounds of the Dean Gallery.

7.4 Conservation & Registrars Department

Ms Ridge gave an overview of the work of the Conservation and Registrars departments and noted that the recent focus on major projects (PG and Artist Rooms) had led to a complete re-think of working methods.

Trustees commended and noted the report.

7.5 Visitor Figures: August 2009

Noted.

7.6 Public Programme 2009-11

It was noted that this was an internal working document which pulled together the whole programme along with the key messages.

Trustees noted that there was a Papal visit planned for the UK in 2010 and considered that NGS should be trying to tie into that in some way.

8 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9 **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 30 November 2009