

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held virtually via MS Teams on Monday 28 March 2022 at 1330hrs.

Present: Benny Higgins (Chairman)
Audrey Carlin
Chris Sibbald
Hannah Rudman
Jim McConville
Rucelle Soutar
Lynn Richmond
Willie Watt
Kate Sang
Apphia Campbell (items 1-7.1)

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Jo Coomber
Jacqueline Ridge
Bryan Robertson
Line Clausen Pedersen
Valerie Urquhart

Apologies: Nick Pearce
Andrew Wilson

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Open Business

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

2 Chairman's Business

The Board ratified Jim McConville's membership of the Audit & Risk Committee. Ms Anderson agreed to circulate the committee membership list to trustees for reference.

EA

3 Minutes

3.1 Minute of the meeting of 31 January 2022

The minute of the meeting of 31 January 2022 was approved as a correct record, with minor amendment.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising which were not already covered on the agenda.

Reserved Business

5 Director-General's Report

Redacted.

5.1 Open Access

Redacted.

6 Strategic Plan 2022-27

Redacted.

Open Business

7 Reports

7.1 Collection & Research

Ms Clausen Pedersen shared some of the recent activity across the collection and within the team.

7.1.1 Acquisitions for Board Approval

Ms Clausen Pedersen sought approval for a number of works which had been put forward by the Collection Committee.

List redacted.

Ms Ridge noted the collection reach and encouraged trustees to review some of the detail in the paper to understand how these acquisitions are used.

All works listed were approved for purchase.

7.2 Public Programme 2021-23

Ms Clausen Pedersen outlined the forthcoming public programme. It was noted that the Trustees would get the opportunity to see the Hepworth show at the end of April at the planned evening reception.

Ms Clausen Pedersen commended the Aimee Segal film (Bloodlines) and encouraged trustees to view it at Modern One.

7.3 Public Engagement Quarterly Report

Trustees noted the report. Ms Coomber noted the success of the family events which took place at half term in February.

It was noted also that the Trading Company would be shortly selling a product in the shops from which all proceeds would go to Ukrainian refugees.

The Trading Company income had been much better than expected at the year-end.

Ms Rudman questioned how trustees would continue to receive the statistics from the Public Engagement directorate. The importance of pulling this information together was noted. Ms Coomber assured trustees that this information would continue to be shared going forward.

7.3.1 Trading Company Review
Redacted.

7.3.2 Brand Launch Plan
Redacted.

7.4 Chief Operating Officer's Report

Voluntary Exit Scheme:

Mr Robertson reported on the success of the latest round of VES.

Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25:

Mr Robertson outline the approach to supporting colleagues' wellbeing.

Employee Engagement:

A survey had been carried out across the organisation and there had been some positive feedback, demonstrating improvements in staff engagement.

The challenges around progression within the organisation and talent development were key areas for further consideration by the Leadership Team. The trustees commended the Leadership Team for such positive feedback. Professor Sang considered that the scores were very good compared to other organisations, querying how flexible working may assist the positivity.

Flexible Working:

Mr Robertson shared the flexible working approach. Some colleagues worked more efficiently at home and others were keen to return. The Leadership Team felt that the connection with the galleries and colleagues were both important elements of working effectively.

The flexible working policy would be trialled for a year in the first instance.

Other:

Mr Robertson updated trustees on progress with Cyber Essentials accreditation, the employment of Visitor Assistants and the continuing development of the five-year capital plan.

Reserved Business

8 Financial Matters

8.1 Finance Report

Redacted.

8.2 Audit & Risk Committee

Redacted.

9 Major Projects Progress Reports

Redacted.

10 Compliance & Risk

10.1 Performance Management 2021-22: Q3

Noted.

10.2 Strategic Risk Register

Noted.

10.3 Safeguarding (Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults)

Nothing to report.

11 Any Other Business

The Director General noted the accident near the SNG that morning, caused by a falling branch dislodged by a lorry making a delivery to the construction site.

The Chairman thanked Ms Coomber for her support and input to NGS over the last few years and wished her well on behalf of the Board.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 13 June 2022 at 1330 hours.