

TRUSTEES' MEETING 4 JULY 2023

No 276

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

AT A MEETING

ON 4 JULY 2023

AT 10.00 A.M.

Present

Sir Patrick Vallance (Chair)
Mr Harris Bokhari OBE
Professor Dame Janet Thornton DBE FRS
Dame Frances Cairncross DBE FRSE
Dr Sarah E Thomas
Mr Robert Noel
Mr Mark Read
Mr Shahpur Kabraji

In Attendance

Dr Douglas Gurr (Director)
Neil Greenwood (Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services)
Tim Littlewood (Executive Director of Science)
Jennifer Cormack (Director of Development)
Dan Phelan (Director of Communications, Digital and Marketing)

Amanda Hart (Executive Assistant to the Director of Board of Trustees) (Acting Board Secretary)
Ayesha Kamran (Governance and Government Relations Officer) (Secondary Board Secretary)
Stacey Frier (Head of Governance and Government Relations)

Bethan Parry (Director of Strategy and Innovation) for Item 5
Clare Laws (Head of Strategic Planning) for Item 5
Dr Alex Burch (Director of Public Programmes) for Items 5, 6 and 9
Paul Kitching (Head of NHM at Tring) for Item 6
Sarah Long (Head of Registry) for Item 10

Preliminary Items:

2456 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS CBE.

2457 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS (TP 23/31A)

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

2458 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY2023 (TP 23/31B)

The minutes of the meeting of the Trustees held on 16 May 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed off by the Chair.

2459 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2023

All matters arising were noted as completed or to be addressed within the meeting.

Corporate items:

2460 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed Mr Shahpur Kabraji to the Board. Mr Kabraji is a partner in the London office of Simpson Thatcher and has been appointed by the Prime Minister to the role of Legal Trustee on the NHM Board.

The Chair provided an update on Trustee recruitment for the Public Engagement and Digital Trustees roles, also to be appointed by the Prime Minister.

The Board noted that it was Neil Greenwood's last Board Meeting, ahead of his retirement at the end of July. The Board thanked Mr Greenwood for his 25 years of service and congratulated him for his many achievements.

2461 DIRECTOR'S REPORT (TP 23/32A)

The Director expanded upon ongoing work across the Museum and was delighted to share that the Our Broken Planet Programme received an award at the Ecsite Annual Conference in Malta last month.

Updates were received across a number of critical and cross-cutting deliverables including work on the Biodiversity Intactness Index (BII), plans for the upcoming COP28 in discussions ahead of the Climate Conference in December, the new Natural History Museum Brand and roll-out, and collaborative conversations between NHM, ZSL and Kew on biodiversity.

2462 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL – MAY 2023 (TP 23/33)

Neil Greenwood provided an overview of the current financial position, detailing a forward look for the upcoming financial year. The report underlines actual income and expenditure to 31 May 2023 (P2) for the financial year 2023-24 and a forecast outturn for the year compared with the Original Budget for 2023-24 approved by the Trustees in February 2023.

Items for approval:

2463 2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (TP23/34A)

The accounts and audit completion reports from the external auditors were considered prior to the meeting by the Audit and Risk Sub-committee on 20 June 2023, subject to final changes.

THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (TP 23/34B)

The Board approved the accounts for the Natural History Museum.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM SPECIAL FUNDS TRUST (TP 23/34C)

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

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM BENEVOLENT FUND (TP 23/34D)

The Board approved the Natural History Museum Benevolent Fund Annual Report and Accounts.

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

The Board noted the accounts for the Natural History Museum Trading Company.

Items for Consideration:

2464 THE FUTURE MUSEUM – NHM ROADMAP AND FUNDRAISING NARRATIVE (TP23/35 A/B)

Beth Parry and Clare Laws presented work towards the Museum's Ten-Year-Roadmap setting out plans for its high-level, long-term ambition. The Board requested a session on the future of collecting at the September strategy day.

Jennifer Cormack presented her early plans to engage corporate, philanthropic and supporter audiences.

The Board noted Dan Phelan's update on the new NHM branding and tone. The Board discussed ensuring the critical mission of the Museum emotionally engage its audience, shares our expertise, and promotes a future where both people and planet can thrive.

2465 TRING DEEP DIVE (TP23/36)

Paul Kitching and Dr Alex Bruch provided an update on long-term plans and funding opportunities at NHM Tring. The Museum is exploring a fundraising partnership that seeks to help implement changes to support the broader Strategy and Vision to 2031, utilising displays and galleries to deliver activities within the Museum's major advocacy programmes.

The Board recommended further utilisation of the ornithology collections and displays at Tring to contribute to discussions on British agriculture and wildlife and to tell stories using the specimens. The Board noted that the next steps and progress timeline is to be considered by the Board at a future date.

Standing items:

2466 NHM UNLOCKED (TP23/37)

The Director provided an update on the NHM Unlocked Programme which the Board noted. The Board approved the creation of a subcommittee with delegated authority to appoint the main contractor for the site at Reading., It was agreed that the members of the Committee will be the Director, the Chair, Robert Noel, and Shahpur Kabraji.

2467 UNP UPDATE – TO NOTE (TP23/38)

The Director updated the Board on progress of the Urban Nature Project, including upcoming activity, fundraising, capital, budget. The Board noted the report.

2468 PUBLIC SPACE PLAN – TO NOTE (TP23/39)

The Board noted the update.

2469 QUARTERLY COLLECTIONS REPORT (TP 23/40A)

Dr Sarah Long presented the most recent updates on the care of the collections.

The Board noted that Dr Long will extend training opportunities to Trustees at a later date.

2470 RETURNS REQUEST FROM QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA (TP23/40B)

Dr Long presented a paper on a request for return from Queensland, Australia by the Australian Government and Woppaburra Community. The Board approved the returns request.

Items to notes:

2471 ITEMS FROM AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE (TP23/41 A-C)

Mr Harris Bokhari summarised a report on the Annual Review of Gifts and Hospitality.

The Board noted the updated report from the meeting held on 20 June 2023.

The Board agreed that Shahpur Kabraji should be formally appointed to the Committee.

2472 SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TP23/42 a/b)

Professor Dame Jane Francis provided an update in Professor Yadvinder Malhi's absence which was noted by the Board.

2473 REPORT FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Mr Robert Noel presented a summary as the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee and the meeting Minutes held on 21 June 2023. The Board noted the update.

2474 REPORT FROM NHM FOUNDATION MEETING

Dame Frances Cairncross updated the Board on the Foundation's recent activities.

2475 EVENT DATES FOR THE DIARY (TP 23/43)

Event dates for the diary were noted.

2476 AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

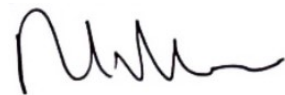
The rolling agenda for future meetings was noted. The deep dive into tough questions the Board are considering will be consolidated and a programme of topics for discussion will be scheduled over the course of the year.

2477 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked the Board and asked the Trustees to extend their thanks to Neil Greenwood for his many years of dedicated service. With no other business to discuss, the Chair concluded the meeting.

2477 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 12 September 2023
- 14 November 2023
- 20 February 2024
- 21 May 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Neil Greenwood', located at the bottom right of the page.