

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
held at the Library
on Friday, 27 September 2013
between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm

Present:

1) Members

Sir Deian Hopkin, President	Colin R John, Treasurer	Roy Roberts	Huw Williams
Wyn Penri Jones	John W. Gittins	Gareth H. Williams	Roy Evans
Hugh Thomas	Lord Aberdare	Enid Morgan	
Michael Trickey	David Barker		

2) Members of Staff

Aled Gruffydd Jones	David Michael	Avril Jones	Arwel Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd	Annwen Isaac	Lorna Hughes	

3) Others

Siân Thomas	Whitley Council
Linda Tomos	CyMAL
Huw Llywelyn Evans	CyMAL

Administrative matters

46/2013 President's welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed all those present, especially Aled Gruffydd Jones, who was present for the first time as Chief Executive and Librarian. The President thanked David Michael for his excellent work as acting Librarian during recent months: Members expressed their appreciation.

Tricia Carter had tendered her apologies: Members extended their best wishes to her following her recent injury.

47/2013 Declarations of Interest

Huw Williams declared an interest in matters where the Library was being advised by Geldards LLP.

48/2013 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 12 June 2013 were accepted on condition that the final sentence under item 31/2013, 'Members were happy with the report' was changed to 'Members noted the report'.

Matters Arising

48/2013/1 Library Website

It was noted that Siân Lloyd Pugh intended to begin her consultation with Members about this in a workshop on the afternoon of 8 October. A number of Members wished to view the new website from home, and Arwel Jones was asked to discuss the possibility with staff and to try to make arrangements to facilitate it. In addition, Members were very keen to see the Library engaging with the public about this issue.

Action: Arwel Jones to agree with Siân Lloyd Pugh on arrangements for engaging with the public.

48/2013/2 Space Development Programme

Avril Jones presented the detailed report already circulated to Members: the contents of the report were noted and the recommendations approved. Avril was thanked for her scrupulous work and her valuable guidance.

48/2013/3 Outreach Strategy

The Audit Committee had by this time concluded that there was little to be gained by insisting that the Marketing Strategy be submitted to them at this time, and that it would be more appropriate to allow the officers to develop it side by side with the Library's main Strategy. Aled Gruffydd Jones reported that, since this was the case, the Executive Team was suggesting that the Outreach Strategy, together with the Marketing Strategy and the Exhibitions Policy, should all be presented to the Board on 8 November. This was agreed.

Action: Arwel Jones to provide the Trustees with drafts of the Outreach Strategy, the Marketing Strategy and the Exhibitions Policy for the next meeting of the Board.

48/2013/4 Library Statutes

Pedr ap Llwyd reported that the Privy Council had not yet approved the changes.

48/2013/5 Appointment of Vice-President

Pedr ap Llwyd also reported that the Government would be advertising the post of Vice-President as soon as the Privy Council had approved the changes.

48/2013/6 Professional Codes

Gareth Haulfryn Williams presented the Codes and these were approved. Gareth was thanked for his work.

Action: Pedr ap Llwyd to draw staff attention to the Codes and to post them on the Library's website.

48/2013/7 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Linda Tomos presented a written summary of the discussions currently taking place in relation to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

It was agreed that CyMAL would circulate a more detailed discussion paper for the Board's next meeting, on condition that it had first been considered by the Chief Executive and Librarian and the Executive Team. It was also agreed that the President, the Chief Executive and Librarian and Michael Trickey would, on behalf of the Board, continue discussions with the Government about this.

Action: CyMAL to provide the proposed detailed paper in good time for it to be considered at the Board's next meeting, in November.

48/2013/8 Matters relating to the fire

Jonathan Griffiths presented a detailed report relating to the fire. The paper's contents were noted and Members approved its recommendations as to the way forward.

The contents of David Michael's report, which had been circulated to Members in advance, were noted. Members were pleased to note that the Library had recently received £625k from the Government for the restoration of the roof.

48/2013/9 Chair in Digital Collections

Aled Gruffydd Jones said that he was currently in discussion with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David concerning the future of this post and would be reporting back to Members in the near future. Members acknowledged the importance of the post and of what Lorna Hughes had managed to achieve since it had been established two years previously.

Action: Aled Gruffydd Jones to continue discussions with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David about future funding for the post.

48/2013/10 Emeritus Staff

The contents of the paper already approved by Members were noted. Pedr ap Llwyd was thanked for incorporating Members' comments following the previous meeting.

48/2013/11 Honorary Fellowship

The Board agreed in principle to award an Honorary Fellowship. Members agreed that the paper required some amendment and agreed to give it further consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

Action: Pedr ap Llwyd to amend the paper in line with Members' comments.

49/2013 Financial matters

49/2013/1 Budgetary Report to 30/8/2013

The contents of the report were noted.

49/2013/2 Outlook for the Budget

The contents of the report were noted.

Members were concerned to see the erosion in salary levels e.g. around 20% of the Library's staff now received less than the living wage. An increasing problem for the Library was its failure to attract and retain qualified staff. The President and the Chief Executive and Librarian were asked to seize every opportunity to draw this critical issue to the attention of the Minister and the Government.

Action: The President and Aled Gruffydd Jones to draw the Government's attention to the Trustees' concern regarding salary levels at their meeting with the Minister on 7 October.

49/2013/3 Fundraising Progress Report

The contents of the report were noted.

Presentation

At the beginning of the meeting, Professor Lorna Hughes had given a presentation on the website 'Cymru WW1'.

50/2013 Strategic Matters

50/2013/1 The Library's next Strategy

Aled Gruffydd Jones reported that the preparation of the first draft of the Strategy was progressing well and that Pedr ap Llwyd would circulate it to Members in a few days' time. It was this draft that would form the basis of the discussions planned for 8 October.

Action: Pedr ap Llwyd to circulate the draft version of the Strategy to members before 8 October.

50/2013/2 Noting the Timetable

The timetable for the creation of the Library's next Strategy was noted and approved.

50/2013/3 Marketing Strategy

The Strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

50/2013/4 Exhibitions Policy

The Policy would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

50/2013/5 Governance Framework

Discussion on this matter was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

50/2013/6 Public Engagement Policy

Discussion on this matter was postponed until the next meeting of the Board.

50/2013/7 Child Poverty Strategy

The progress report was noted.

51/2013 Reports, updates, receiving information

51/2013/1 The Chief Executive and Librarian's Matters

The matters previously circulated to Members were noted.

51/2013/2 President's Business

A paper prepared by the President, entitled 'First World War Commemorations in Wales', was circulated; this gave an outline of the activities in which he had been, or would be, involved with regard to commemorating the Great War.

Closed Session

52/2013 The Audit Committee

52/2013/1 Meeting of the Audit Committee of 8 July 2013

The minutes were noted.

52/2013/2

Meeting of the Audit Committee of 6 September 2013

The minutes were noted.