

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3 & 4 OCTOBER 2008
AT THE HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS**

PRESENT

Mr Niall FitzGerald KBE (Chairman)
Chief Emeka Anyaoku (from item 17)
Ms Karen Armstrong
Lord Broers
Mr Francis Finlay
Dame Liz Forgan
Miss Val Gooding
Mr Antony Gormley
Mr Stephen Green (by phone from item 14)
Dr Olga Kennard
Baroness Helena Kennedy (from item 14)
Mr Richard Lambert
Mrs Edmée Leventis
Mr David Norgrove
Sir John Tusa

IN ATTENDANCE

Neil MacGregor	Director
Andrew Burnett	Deputy Director
Chris Yates	Director of Finance and Administration (from item 6)
Joanna Mackle	Director of Public Engagement (from item 6)
Mark Bates	Governance and Policy Manager
David Lindsell	North West Development Committee Chairman (item 8)
Justin Morris	Head of Strategic Planning & Collections Services (items 13, 16 & 17)
John Curtis	Keeper Middle East (item 13 & 17)

PART 1 – 16.00, 3 OCTOBER 2008

1. NEW TRUSTEES

- 1.1 The Chairman announced that the Prime Minister had approved the appointment of Karen Armstrong, Dame Liz Forgan and Lord Nicholas Stern as Trustees for terms of four years from 2 October. He warmly welcomed Karen Armstrong and Liz Forgan to their first Board meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies had been received from Christopher Bayly, Ronald Cohen, Barry Cunliffe, Bonnie Greer, Penny Hughes, George Iacobescu, Charles Powell and Nick Stern.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2008

3.1 The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 3 July 2008 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record.

3.2 Matters arising:

3.2.1 *Item 8.3* - the Chairman advised that Margaret Hodge had responded to his letter about the proposed spoliation legislation and had requested a meeting.

3.2.2 *Item 8.5* – the Director confirmed that members of PCS and Prospect had taken strike action on the afternoon of 4 July, but that this had had little impact on the Museum.

3.2.3 *Item 19.7* – the annual report from the Investment sub-committee would be deferred to the March 2009 Board meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Liz Forgan declared a potential conflict of interest in any discussion about NDPB status (item 14 on the agenda) because of her role as a non-executive director of the DCMS board. In the event, the item was postponed to a future meeting. No other interests were declared.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 The Chairman proposed to defer his report to the November Board meeting because a number of Trustees were absent.

6. MANAGEMENT REPORT

6.1 The Board noted the contents of the Management Report.

6.2 The Director drew the Board's attention to:

- the success of the *American Scene* exhibition which had attracted over 350,000 visits.
- BM membership had increased to around 20,000 individual members.
- the Portable Antiquities Scheme review report was about to be sent to DCMS Ministers by MLA.
- the latest developments on the World Collections Programme, including projects in China and Africa.

7. ADVOCACY REPORT

7.1 The Board noted the contents of the Advocacy Report, and Joanna Mackle provided an update.

8. NORTH WEST DEVELOPMENT

8.1 The Chairman informed the Board that following the end of his term as Trustee in September, David Lindsell would be co-opted to the North West Development Committee and that for the meantime, he would continue in his capacity as Chairman.

- 8.2 David Lindsell advised the Board that design work continued and that the final design would be submitted to Trustees for approval in due course. Discussions with English Heritage and Camden Council were ongoing.

9. TRUSTEE VACANCIES

- 9.1 The Chairman advised that the Nominations and Governance Committee had recommended at its meeting of 3 October that the two Prime Ministerial vacancies should be kept vacant for now. The Board agreed.

10. LOAN APPROVALS

- 10.1 The Board approved loans to the National Gallery, London, for *The Renaissance Portrait* exhibition.
- 10.2 The Board approved loans to the Australian National Maritime Museum for *Charles Darwin – Voyages and Ideas that Shake the World*.

11. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 11.1 The minutes of the Nominations and Governance Committee held on 22 July 2008 were noted.
- 11.2 The minutes of the North West Development Committee 27 June 2008 were noted.
- 11.3 The minutes of the North West Development Committee 7 August 2008 were noted.
- 11.4 The minutes of the North West Development Committee 22 September 2008 were noted.
- 11.5 The minutes of the Audit Committee held on 14 July 2008 were noted.

12. SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 12.1 The schedule of forthcoming events was noted.

13. MIDDLE EAST

- 13.1 Justin Morris and John Curtis provided an overview of the Museum's activities in the Middle East, including proposals for future partnerships. The Chairman requested that the Board continue discussion of this item at Part 2 of the Board meeting.

PART 2 – 08.30, 4 OCTOBER 2008

14. NDPB STATUS

14.1 The Chairman advised the Board that this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

15. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

15.1 Chris Yates explained the new format for Management Accounts and presented the first quarter's accounts. The Trustees congratulated the Finance team on the improvements made.

16. OPERATING PLAN

16.1 The Board discussed and approved the Operating Plan and Budget for 2008/09.

16.2 The Operating Plan and a draft budget for 2009/10 would be submitted to the Board for consideration at its meeting on 26 March 2009.

17. MIDDLE EAST

17.1 The Board continued its discussion on options for partnerships with countries in the Middle East. It was agreed that work should continue to develop proposals taking account of the views expressed at the meeting, and that these should be considered at a future Board meeting.

18. AUDIT REPORT

18.1 The Chairman advised the Board that this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 Francis Finlay updated the Board on the performance of the Museum's investments and the Investment Sub-committee's response to current market conditions.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 30 November

_____ Chairman