

THE BRITISH MUSEUM
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2006
AT
THE BRITISH MUSEUM

PRESENT

Mr Niall FitzGerald KBE (Chairman)
Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Lord Broers
Sri Ronald Cohen
Sir Barry Cunliffe
Mr Francis Finlay
Miss Val Gooding
Ms Bonnie Greer
Dr Olga Kennard
Mr Richard Lambert
Mrs Edmée Leventis
Mr David Lindsay
Mr David Norgrove
Lord Powell
Mr Vikram Seth
Mr Eric Salama
Sir John Tusa

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Neil MacGregor	- Director
Dr Andrew Burnett	- Deputy Director
Ms Zoe Hancock	- Head of Planning and Programmes
Miss Heidi Weeks	- Directorate Manager
For item 1	- Mr Andrew Thatcher, Director, BMCo - Mrs Helen Watts, Head of Finance and Administration, BMCo
For item 9	- Ms Joanna Mackle, Director of Communications - Mr Xerxes Mazda, Acting Head of Learning and Information - Mr Dyfri Williams, Keeper of Greek and Roman - Mr Jonathan Williams, International Advisor, Directorate
For item 11	- Mr Peter Clennell, Chair Trade Union Side - Mr Chris Terrey, Trade Union Representative

1. 32ND BMCo AGM

- 1.1 The business of the BMCo AGM was conducted by Mr D Lindsell.
- 1.2 Mr A Thatcher delivered the Director's report to the Board and invited questions from Trustees. There was a discussion on the Museum's current retail facilities.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies had been received from Mr S Green, Baroness Kennedy and Sir Keith Thomas.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 3.1 *Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees: 6 October 2006.* The Minutes were approved and the Chairman was authorized to sign them as a true record.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 4.1 No conflicts of interest were reported.

5. TRUSTEE BUSINESS

- 5.1 *Nominations and Governance Committee recommendations: Renewal of Trustee appointments.* The Board endorsed the recommendation that Lord Powell's appointment be renewed for a second term for a period of four years. Lord Powell accepted the renewal of his appointment.

6. STRATEGIC AMBITIONS TO 2012

- 6.1 The paper on the Museum's Strategic Ambitions to 2012 would be revised with a stronger focus on advocacy. **(Action: Chairman/ Director)**

7. LOAN TO THE NATIONAL PALACE MUSEUM TAIPEI, TAIWAN, FOR THE EXHIBITION: TREASURES OF THE WORLD'S CULTURES

- 7.1 The Board approved the loan.

8. HUMAN REMAINS

- 8.1 Te Papa Claim
- 8.1.1 A presentation of the objects concerned was made to Trustees. Trustees discussed the paper prepared by Mr J King and Ms J Newell.

9. PUBLIC PROGRAMME

- 9.1 Anniversary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade - Political Activity and Programme

- 9.1.1 Mr X Mazda and Ms J Mackle presented an outline of the programme of exhibitions, events and activities that would form *Atlantic Trade and Identity*, a season of events that would centre on the 25 March 2007, the anniversary of the abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade.
- 9.1.2 The Deputy Director formally thanked Bonnie Greer for her help and ongoing involvement in this project.
- 9.2 International Activity in 2007
 - 9.2.1 The Director reminded Trustees of the extensive programme of international activity the Museum would embark upon in the coming year.
 - 9.2.2 Discussions would take place internally and there would be a further debate on the Museum's role internationally at the Board meeting in March. **(Action: Director)**
 - 9.2.3 A Trustee workshop focussing on international activity would be arranged in advance of the next Board meeting. **(Action: Directorate)**
- 10. TRUSTEE ADVOCACY**
- 10.1 The Chairman discussed this item under agenda item 18.
- 11. INTERNAL RELATIONS**
- 11.1 Update on Trade Union and Management Relations
 - 11.1.1 Mr P Clennell presented the annual report of the Trade Union Chair. The report focussed on three areas: pay and grading, restructuring and internal communications.
 - 11.1.2 The Deputy Director thanked Mr Clennell and his colleagues for the way in which Union meetings and discussions had been conducted during the past year.
- 12. PERCIVAL DAVID FOUNDATION REPORT**
- 12.1 The Director reported that an agreement in principle had been reached with the Percival David Foundation (PDF) and SOAS.
- 13. MANAGEMENT REPORT**
- 13.1 The Board noted the content of the Management Report.
- 14. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES**
- 14.1 The Minutes of the Nominations and Governance Committee meeting held on the 6 October were noted.

- 14.2 The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 12 October.
- 14.2.1 The October meeting of the Audit Committee had not been quorate. At the Chairman's request, the Board ratified the minutes of this meeting.
- 14.2.2 At the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board agreed to endorse and adopt the Whistle Blowing Procedure.
- 14.2.3 The Chairman of the Audit Committee reported on recent Internal Audit Reports. The reports with limited assurance should not be surprising as the Internal Audit Programme was now focussed on looking at the risks and topics of greatest concern, often identified by management themselves. Appropriate and pragmatic action was being taken to address the identified weaknesses.
- 14.3 The Minutes of the Investment Sub Committee meeting held on 26 October were noted.
- 14.4 The Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 26 October were noted.
- 15. SCHEDULE OF TRUSTEES' BUSINESS 2007**
- 15.1 The schedule of Trustees' business for 2007 was noted.
- 16. SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS**
- 16.1 The schedule of forthcoming events was noted.
- 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 17.1 Mr F Finlay reminded Trustees that the Board meeting of the American Friends of the British Museum would take place in London on 28 November.
- 17.2 Trustees asked that the date and venue of the 2007 away meeting be confirmed as soon as possible.
- 18. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- 18.1 This section of the meeting was a closed session with no minutes recorded and only the Trustees and Director in attendance.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 29 March 2007

Chairman