

## Minutes

# The British Museum Board Meeting 29 September 2018 Held at the National Museum of Scotland

### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
The Hon Nigel Boardman  
Ms Cheryl Carolus  
Ms Elizabeth Corley  
Professor Chris Gosden  
Ms Muriel Gray  
Professor Nicola Lacey  
Sir Deryck Maughan  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr John Micklethwait  
Sir Paul Nurse  
Mr Mark Pears  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Lord Sassoon  
Dame Minouche Shafik  
Ms Ahdaf Soueif  
Lord Turner

### In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Joanna Mackle  
Deputy Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager  
Emma Hayes (Items 3 & 4)  
Collections Programme Manager  
Jane Whittaker (Item 5)  
Director of Resources

**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Chris Gosden to the Board.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Patricia Cumper, Clarissa Farr, Gavin Patterson and Paul Ruddock.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

***For Approval***

**3. De-accession Policy**

- 3.1 The Board agreed the revised De-accession policy in principle, subject to the need for a few amendments which the Chairman would be asked to agree on the Board's behalf.

***Action: Jonathan Williams***

**4. Archaeological Assemblages**

- 4.1 Emma Hayes presented a paper on proposals for managing unregistered and bulk-registered archaeological material held by the Museum. The Board approved the proposals and asked that the result of pilots using material held at Blythe House be reported back to Trustees.

***Action: Jonathan Williams***

***For Discussion***

**5. Masterplan**

- 5.1 Christopher Yates and Jane Whittaker provided a progress report on the Masterplan. The Board was satisfied with the progress that had been made and the proposed next steps.
- 5.2 Jonathan Williams provided a progress report on the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection.

**6. Digital**

- 6.1 Joanna Mackle provided a progress report on key areas of digital activity. The Board requested a further discussion on digital strategy at the March meeting.

***Action: Joanna Mackle***

***Standing Business***

**7. Minutes**

- 7.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 5 July 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 7.2 The Chairman noted that a paper on visitor numbers had been circulated to the Board.

**8. Chairman's Report**

- 8.1 The Chairman reported that he had appointed Elizabeth Corley to the Standing Committee from January 2019 and Chris Gosden to the Research Committee from August 2018.

**9. Management Report**

- 9.1 The Board noted the Management Report.

**10. Committee Reports**

- 10.1 The Chairman reported that the Nominations and Remuneration Committee had met on 6 September and had agreed a draft role specification for Trustee vacancies.
- 10.2 There was no Audit Committee report because it had not met since the last Board meeting.

***For Information***

**11. Research Strategy Report**

- 11.1 The Board noted the report.

**12. Loans Strategy Report**

- 12.1 The Board noted the report.

**13. Sponsorship and Donations Report**

- 13.1 The Board noted the report.

**14. Loan approvals**

- 14.1 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee and Chairman.

**15. Committee minutes**

- 15.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 22 March, the Standing Committee meeting of 31 May and the Nominations & Remuneration Committee meeting of 31 May.

**16. Advocacy Update**

16.1 The Board noted the update.

**17. Any other business**

17.1 The Chairman thanked Deryck Maughan for his very generous pledge to the Museum on behalf of the Maughan family.

*The management team withdrew from the meeting and the Board held a closed session.*

\_\_\_\_\_Chairman

**Date of next meeting:** 6 December 2018, the British Museum