

UNRESTRICTED

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## Minutes

# Meeting of the British Museum Board of Trustees

**29 & 30 September 2017**

Held at the British Museum

### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
The Hon Nigel Boardman  
Ms Cheryl Carolus  
Ms Elizabeth Corley  
Miss Patricia Cumper  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Clive Gamble  
Ms Muriel Gray (Items 1-14)  
Professor Nicola Lacey  
Sir Deryck Maughan (by phone)  
Mr John Micklethwait  
Sir Paul Nurse  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Lord Sassoon  
Dame Nemat Shafik (Item 15)  
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  
Jane Whittaker  
Director of Resources (Items 3 & 15)  
Emma Hayes  
Collections Programme Manager (Items  
3 & 15)  
Jeremy Hill  
Research Manager (Items 3 & 15)

**Part One: Friday 29 September, 17.00-18.00**

**1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from, Mr Gavin Patterson, Mr Mark Pears, Professor Amartya Sen and Baroness Wheatcroft

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 Professor Clive Gamble had declared an interest in the Blythe House project. No other interests were declared.

**3. Tour of the British Museum**

- 3.1 The management team answered questions arising from the Board's tour of the Museum.

**4. British Museum Grant**

*Note: This item was a meeting of the British Museum Friends (BMF) Board.*

- 4.1 The BMF Board approved an unrestricted grant to the British Museum.

**5. Minutes of Meeting**

- 5.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 6 July 2017 were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**6. Chairman's Report**

- 6.1 The Chairman informed the Board that he had approved on its behalf some amendments to the Museum's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.

- 6.2 The Chairman informed the Board that he had approved on its behalf expenditure on the next phase of perimeter property refurbishments.

- 6.3 The Chairman informed the Board that the Museum's fieldwork team working in northern Iraq was safe but was returning that day to Istanbul because of the closure of airports in the region.

**7. Director's Report**

- 7.1 The Director provided an update on current gallery refurbishments. He informed the Board that he would be travelling to Japan shortly for the opening of the *Hokusai* exhibition and would be travelling to Mumbai in November for the opening of the *India in the world* exhibition.

**8. Committee Reports**

- 8.1 The Chairman reported on behalf of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee that the role specification for two Trustee vacancies submitted to DCMS was awaiting ministerial approval.

- 8.2 There was no Audit Committee business to report.

**9. Management Report**

9.1 The Board noted the Management Report.

9.2 The Chairman requested a note on the *Scythians* exhibition performance.

*Action: Joanna Mackle*

**10. Committee Minutes**

10.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 23 March, the Standing Committee meeting of 1 June and the Nominations & Remuneration Committee meeting of 29 June.

**11. Advocacy Update**

11.1 The Board noted the Advocacy Update.

**12. Loan Approvals**

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

**13. Sponsorships, Donations and Grants**

13.1 The Board noted the 2016/17 report of sponsorships, donations and grants of £25,000 and over.

**14. Any Other Business**

14.1 There was no other business.

**Part Two: Saturday 30 September, 09.30-14.00**

**15. Collection Display**

15.1 The Director gave an introduction to proposals for the collection display, which was followed by a presentation by Jonathan Williams.

15.2 Following discussion, the Board approved a set of key principles for the collection display framework.

\_\_\_\_\_Chairman