

Minutes

The British Museum Board Meeting 7 December 2017

Held at the British Museum

Present

Sir Richard Lambert
Chairman
Hon Nigel Boardman (by phone
Item 1-3)
Ms Cheryl Carolus (by phone)
Miss Patricia Cumper
Ms Clarissa Farr
Professor Clive Gamble
Ms Muriel Gray
Professor Nicola Lacey
Sir Deryck Maughan (by phone)
Mr John Micklethwait (Items 1-10)
Sir Paul Nurse
Mr Gavin Patterson (Items 1-9)
Mr Mark Pears
Mr Grayson Perry
Sir Paul Ruddock
Lord Sassoon (by phone Items 1-3)
Dame Minouche Shafik
Ms Ahdaf Soueif
Lord Turner
Baroness Wheatcroft

In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer (Items 1-9)
Director
Joanna Mackle
Deputy Director
Jonathan Williams
Deputy Director
Christopher Yates
Deputy Director
Mark Bates
Governance & Planning Manager
Jane Whittaker (Items 1-3)
Director of Resources
JD Hill (Items 1-3)
Research Manager

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies had been received from Ms Elizabeth Corley and Professor Amartya Sen.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 No interests were declared.

For Approval

3. Masterplan: Research, Education and Visitor Services

3.1 Following an introduction from the Director, Christopher Yates and Jonathan Williams discussed proposals for the Museum's Masterplan. The Trustees discussed and agreed proposals.

4. Collection Storage Framework

4.1 The Board approved amendments to the Collection Storage Framework.

5. Sexual Harassment Protection Measures

5.1 The Board noted the measures the Museum had in place to prevent and detect sexual harassment.

5.2 The Chairman invited female Trustees to volunteer to be a whistleblowing contact.

6. Audit Committee Terms of Reference

6.1 The Board approved minor amendments to the Audit Committee's terms of reference as recommended by the Audit Committee, and agreed that these should be reflected in the British Museum Governance Principles and Procedures.

7. British Museum Friends' Grant

Note: this item constituted a meeting of the British Museum Friends (BMF) Board

7.1 The British Museum Friends Board approved an unrestricted grant to the British Museum.

Standing Business

8. Minutes

8.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 29-30 September 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

8.2 Under matters arising, Joanna Mackle gave an update on ticket sales for the *Scythians* and the *Living with gods* exhibitions.

9. Chairman's Report

- 9.1 The Chairman reported on: the opening of the Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery by Her Majesty The Queen on 8 November; the opening of the *India in the world* exhibition at the CSMVS in Mumbai on 10 November which he had attended with the Director; and the Trustees' dinner held on 29 November.

10. Management Report

- 10.1 The Board noted the Management Report.
- 10.2 Christopher Yates reported on the temporary closure of parts of the South Colonnade.

11. Committee Reports

- 11.1 Adair Turner reported that the Audit Committee meeting held on 26 October had reviewed the exhibition programme's risks and performance, and had reviewed risks associated with key supplier insolvency. He informed the Board that the Audit Committee would be carrying out a detailed review of progress with the new General Data Protection Regulations and cyber security.
- 11.2 Patience Wheatcroft reported on the recruitment exercise for two Trustees for appointment by the Prime Minister, and sought views on future candidates for Trustee appointments made by the Board. The Board agreed in principle with the Committee's recommendation that a sub-committee should be established in due course to oversee delivery of large Masterplan projects.

For Information

12. Annual Visitor Research Summary Report

- 12.1 The Board noted the report.

13. Committee Minutes

- 13.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Standing Committee meeting of 7 September and the Audit Committee meeting of 6 July.

14. Advocacy Update

- 14.1 The Board noted the update.

15. Loans Approvals

- 15.1 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee.

16. Any Other Business

- 16.1 There was no other business.

The management team except Christopher Yates withdrew from the meeting before a closed session of the Board was held.

Closed session

17. Succession Planning

- 17.1 Christopher Yates discussed the Museum's succession plans for senior management posts.

_____Chairman

Date of next meeting: 22 March 2018, the British Museum