

## Minutes

# The British Museum Board Meeting 5 July 2018

### Held at the British Museum

#### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
The Hon Nigel Boardman (by phone)  
Ms Cheryl Carolus (by phone)  
Ms Elizabeth Corley  
Miss Patricia Cumper  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Clive Gamble  
Ms Muriel Gray  
Professor Nicola Lacey  
Sir Deryck Maughan  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr John Micklethwait  
Sir Paul Nurse  
Mr Gavin Patterson  
Mr Mark Pears  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Lord Sassoon  
Professor Amartya Sen  
Dame Minouche Shafik  
Ms Ahdaf Soueif  
Lord Turner  
Baroness Wheatcroft

#### In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Joanna Mackle  
Deputy Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager  
Jane Whittaker (Items 3-5)  
Director of Resources

**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Charlie Mayfield to the Board.
- 1.2 There were no apologies.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

***For Approval***

**3. Masterplan**

- 3.1 Following an introduction from the Chairman, the Director's vision for the Masterplan was discussed and endorsed, with comments noted.
- 3.2 Jane Whittaker presented funding options for the Masterplan. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board authorised the Executive to begin discussions with key stakeholders.
- 3.3 The Board confirmed that the record of decisions on the Masterplan taken at recent meetings was correct.

**4. British Museum Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18**

- 4.1 The Board noted the Audit Committee report.
- 4.2 The Board noted the Auditor's report and approved the letter of representation on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.
- 4.3 The Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18 on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

**5. British Museum Friends Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18**

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

- 5.1 The BMF Board noted the Auditor's report.
- 5.2 The BMF Board approved a grant of £1,189 to the British Museum from unrestricted funds.
- 5.3 The BMF Board approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017/18, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.
- 5.4 The BMF Board approved the letter of representation, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

## **Standing Business**

### **6. Minutes**

- 6.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 22 March 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 6.2 Under matters arising, the Chairman informed the Board that he had reappointed Sir Ian Johnston as a co-opted member of the Audit Committee for a further four years from 1 October.

### **7. Chairman's Report**

- 7.1 The Chairman was pleased to report that the Secretary of State had approved the appointment of Professor Chris Gosden as a Trustee on the nomination of the Society of Antiquaries of London for a four-year term from 2 August.
- 7.2 The Chairman noted that there were three Prime Ministerial Trustee appointments to be filled over the next year and reported on the Nominations and Remuneration Committee's views on priorities in terms of skills.
- 7.3 The Chairman thanked Minouche Shafik for agreeing to become a Deputy Chair from 2 August and thereby a member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.
- 7.4 The Chairman thanked Liz Corley for agreeing to become Chair of the Investment Sub-committee from 2 August.
- 7.5 The Chairman reported that he had had constructive discussions with union representatives at a recent British Museum Consultative Committee meeting.
- 7.6 The Chairman reminded Trustees that the away meeting in the autumn would be held in Edinburgh.

### **8. Management Report**

- 8.1 The Board noted the Management Report. The fall in visitor numbers was noted in particular and the Trustees requested further information on the possible causes.

***Action: Joanna Mackle***

### **9. Committee reports**

- 9.1 Adair Turner reported that the Audit Committee meeting held earlier in the day had concluded that financial risks were being well-managed; had agreed that the Investment Sub-committee's terms of reference were appropriate; and was satisfied with the annual Stewardship Report and risk management reports on fire, security, health and safety, and technical services/statutory compliance.
- 9.2 Trustees were reminded of the importance of full disclosure of interests and related parties in the Register of Interests.
- 9.3 Patience Wheatcroft provided a report on recent Investment Sub-committee business. The main business of the recent Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting would be covered in the closed session.

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***For Information***

**10. Exhibition Strategy**

- 10.1 The Board noted that the outcome of the exhibition process review would be reported at the December Board meeting.

***Action: Joanna Mackle***

**11. Committee minutes**

- 11.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings of 22 February and 3 May; the Audit Committee meeting of 18 January; and the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting of 22 March.

**12. Advocacy Update**

- 12.1 The Board noted the update.

**13. Loans Approvals**

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

**14. Any Other Business**

- 14.1 The Chairman noted with much regret that this was the last meeting for Clive Gamble, Amartya Sen and Patience Wheatcroft. He thanked each of them for their tremendous contribution to the Board over the last eight years.

*The management team withdrew from the meeting.*

**15. Closed session**

- 15.1 The Board discussed the outcome of the Board Performance Review and approved actions recommended by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.
- 15.2 The Chairman reported on the outcome of his review of the Director's performance in 2017/18. On the recommendation of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, the Board approved an increase in the Director's salary with effect from 1 April 2017 of 2% in line with the staff pay award and a bonus of 15% of salary.

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Chairman

**Date of next meeting:** 29 September 2018, Edinburgh

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