

## Minutes

# The British Museum Board Meeting 2 October 2020

### Held digitally

#### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
Professor Dame Mary Beard  
The Hon Nigel Boardman  
Ms Cheryl Carolus  
Dame Elizabeth Corley  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Chris Gosden  
Ms Muriel Gray  
Mr Philipp Hildebrand  
Dame Vivian Hunt  
Sir Deryck Maughan  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr Mark Pears  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Lord Sassoon  
Dame Minouche Shafik  
Mr George Weston  
Professor Sarah Worthington

#### In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager  
Jane Whittaker (Items 3-4)  
Director of Resources

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies had been received from Patricia Cumper.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

2.1 No interests were declared.

***For Discussion***

**3. Business Recovery**

3.1 Christopher Yates gave an update on the re-opening of the Museum, including the measures that had been taken to ensure the safety of visitors and staff; visitor numbers; and plans for all staff to return from furlough from November.

3.2 Jane Whittaker provided an overview of the Museum's financial position for the current financial year, and explained that the financial position for 2021/22 was largely dependent on the outcome of the Spending Review, Government support during the pandemic, and the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

**4. Rosetta Project**

4.1 Christopher Yates gave a presentation on the progress of the Rosetta Project including the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection and critical infrastructure works at Bloomsbury.

**5. Management**

5.1 The Director gave a presentation on the management structures within the Museum.

***Standing Business***

**6. Minutes**

6.1 The minutes of the Board meetings held on 2 July 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

6.2 There were no matters arising.

**7. Chairman's Report**

7.1 The Chairman informed the Board that he had appointed Sarah Worthington to the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

7.2 The Chairman reported that the Royal Society's nominee to the Board had been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

7.3 The Chairman provided an update on Spending Review discussions.

7.4. The Board noted the Secretary of State's recent letter about contested heritage.

**8. Management Report**

8.1 The Board noted the report.

**9. Committee reports**

9.1 Vivian Hunt informed the Board that the next Audit Committee meeting would remain focused on COVID-19 risks. She also reported that it was hoped that the sign-off of the Annual Report and Accounts by the NAO would be completed shortly.

9.2 Minouche Shafik reported that the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting in September had focused on the Chair selection process and Trustee recruitment.

***For Information***

**10. Board Review Action Plan**

10.1 The Board noted the action plan.

**11. Loans Approvals**

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

**12. Committee minutes**

12.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 19 March, the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting of 11 June, and the Standing Committee meeting of 11 June.

**13. Any Other Business**

13.1 The Chairman recorded his thanks to Sir Paul Nurse for his remarkable contribution to the Board and the Research Committee during his time as a Trustee.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

**Date of next meeting:** 3 December 2020