

## Minutes

# The British Museum Board Meeting 3 December 2020

### Held digitally

#### Present

Sir Richard Lambert  
Chairman  
Professor Dame Mary Beard  
The Hon Nigel Boardman  
Ms Cheryl Carolus  
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  
Baroness Shafik  
Sir Mark Walport  
Mr George Weston  
Professor Dame 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  
Sian Hoggett (Item 5)  
Head of Membership & Customer  
Relationship Management

**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Mark Walport to the Board.
- 1.2 The Chairman congratulated Elizabeth Corley, Clarissa Farr and Paul Ruddock on their reappointments as Trustees by the Prime Minister.
- 1.3 Apologies had been received from Patricia Cumper and Elizabeth Corley.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

***For Discussion***

**3. COVID-19 update**

- 3.1 Jane Whittaker gave an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Museum.

**4. Spending Review update**

- 4.1 Jane Whittaker reported that the outcome of the Spending Review for the Museum was awaited.

**5. Members**

- 5.1 Sian Hoggett gave a presentation on the British Museum Friends.

***Standing Business***

**6. Minutes**

- 6.1 The minutes of the Board meetings held on 2 October 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.
- 6.2 Matters arising:
  - 6.2.1 Item 9.1, Annual Report & Accounts 2019/20: The Chairman reported that the accounts had been signed off in November and had been published.

**7. Chairman's Report**

- 7.1 The Chairman informed the Board that he had appointed Mark Walport to the Standing Committee and Research Committee.
- 7.2 The Chairman would be inviting Trustees to share their thoughts on how organisations might have to change post-pandemic.
- 7.3 At the Chairman's invitation, James Sassoon reported on the recent Rosetta Project Committee meeting.

**8. Management Report**

- 8.1 The Board noted the report.

- 8.2 The Director reported that the recent death of Ian Jenkins, Curator, Greece and Rome had been widely felt within the Museum and across the world.
- 8.3 The Director reported on the recent announcement of the Museum's collaboration on the Benin City archaeology project; the launch of the global co-curation project; and the proposed loan of the Bayeux tapestry to the UK.

## **9. Committee reports**

- 9.1 Vivian Hunt reported that the recent Audit Committee meeting had focused on COVID-related risks and a discussion of the risks arising from the end of the EU exit transition period.
- 9.2 Minouche Shafik reported that the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting held earlier in the day had focused on the upcoming Trustee recruitment campaign.

### ***For Approval***

## **10. Policy reviews**

- 10.1 The Board approved the following policies which had been reviewed as part of the regular review cycle:
- Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Prevention Policy
  - Information Risk Policy
  - Standards of Conduct Policy
  - Whistleblowing Policy
  - Anti Money Laundering, Prevention of Tax Evasion and Refusal of Donations Policy

### ***For Information***

## **11. Loans**

- 11.1 The Board noted the Annual Loans Strategy Report 2019/20
- 11.2 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee.

## **12. Collection Care Strategy**

- 12.1 The Board noted the reviewed strategy as approved by the Standing Committee.

## **13. Collection Storage Strategy**

- 13.1 The Board noted the reviewed strategy as approved by the Standing Committee.

## **14. Annual Research Strategy Report**

- 14.1 The Board noted the report.

**15. Policy reviews**

- 15.1 The Board noted the reviewed Equality and Diversity Policy and Safeguarding Policy as approved by the Standing Committee.

**16. Committee minutes**

- 16.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 2 July and the Standing Committee meeting of 3 September.

**17. Any Other Business**

- 17.1 The Chairman noted with regret that this was Nigel Boardman's last Board meeting and thanked him for his dedication to the Museum over his eight years as a Trustee.

*The management team left the meeting.*

***Closed session***

*Following a closed discussion, the Chairman left the meeting and Minouche Shafik assumed the Chair.*

**18. Chair search**

- 18.1 Minouche Shafik provided an update on the Chair search campaign.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

**Date of next meeting:** 18 March 2020, 15.00-18.00