

# Minutes

## The British Museum Board Meeting 2 December 2021

### Held at the British Museum

#### Present

Mr George Osborne  
Chair  
Professor Abhijit Banerjee (online)  
Professor Dame Mary Beard  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Chris Gosden  
Ms Muriel Gray (online)  
Mr Philipp Hildebrand  
Dame Vivian Hunt  
Lord Marland  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr Mark Pears  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Baroness Shafik (online)  
Ms Priyanka Wadhawan  
Professor Sir Mark Walport  
Mr George Weston (online)  
Professor Dame Sarah Worthington

#### In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager  
Jane Whittaker (Item 3)  
Director of Resources  
Russell Torrance (Item 3)  
Head of Capital Planning & Programme  
Management  
Sarah Saunders (Item 4)  
Head of Learning & National  
Partnerships  
Maria Bojanowska (Item 4)  
Head of National Programmes  
Daniel Antoine (Item 4)  
Acting Keeper of Egypt & Sudan  
Lissant Bolton (Item 4)  
Keeper of Africa, Oceania & the  
Americas  
Emma Hayes (Item 4)  
Head of Collection Projects &  
Resources  
Jane Portal (Item 4)  
Keeper of Asia  
Jonathan Tubb (Item 4)  
Keeper of Middle East

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Abhijit Banerjee, Jonathan Marland and Priyanka Wadhawan to the Board.

1.2 Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Corley and Grayson Perry.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

2.1 No interests were declared.

### ***Approval***

## **3. Rosetta Project**

3.1 Charlie Mayfield led a presentation on the history of the Bloomsbury building, projects completed over the last 20 years, and recent building surveys. This was followed by a presentation led by the Director on proposals for the next stage of the Rosetta Project.

3.2 Following a full discussion, the Board agreed that:

- i. the Western Galleries should be the priority for the next phase of the Rosetta Project;
- ii. work on the project for a new Energy Centre should continue;
- iii. engagement with key stakeholders should commence;
- iv. a masterplan should be presented to the Board in October 2022; and
- v. updates should be provided at future Board meetings.

## **4. Public Engagement Strategy: National and International**

4.1 Jonathan Williams provided an overview of the proposed National Strategy. The Board approved the strategy, subject to some amendments.

4.2 Jonathan Williams provided an overview of the proposed International Collaboration Strategy. The Board approved the strategy.

### ***Standing Business***

## **5. Minutes**

5.1 The minutes of the Board meetings held on 2 October 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

## **6. Chair's Report**

6.1 The Chair reported a successful Trustees' Dinner.

6.2 The Chair informed the Board that he had appointed Mark Walport to the Rosetta Project Committee.

**7. Management Report**

7.1 The Board noted the report.

**8. Committee reports**

8.1 Vivian Hunt reported that in her absence at the Audit Committee meeting on 21 October, the committee had received a presentation about the management of information risks; had agreed the transfer of COVID risks to the main corporate risk register; and, following a recent self-assessment, had concluded that the committee achieves good practice principles.

8.2 Minouche Shafik advised that the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting in January would be considering the outcome of the Board skills audit.

***Information***

**9. Committee minutes**

9.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 1 July 2021 and the Standing Committee meeting of 2 September 2021.

**10. Archaeology approvals**

10.1 The Board noted the report of Standing Committee approvals.

**11. Loan approvals**

11.1 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee.

**12. Any other business**

12.1 There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

**Date of next meeting:** 24 March 2022, the British Museum