

# Minutes The British Museum Board Meeting 1 June 2023

**Held at the British Museum and via MS Teams**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Jane Whittaker  
Director of Resources  
Kary Kelly  
Director of Advancement  
Jill Maggs  
Director of Public Engagement  
Hanbury Strategy

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies had been received from George Osborne and Alejandro Santo Domingo.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

2.1 George Osborne had declared a conflict of interest and withdrawn in advance of the meeting. He had asked Charlie Mayfield, in his capacity as chair of the Masterplan Committee, to chair this meeting in his place.

2.2 Philipp Hildebrand confirmed that he had no personal conflict of interest but disclosed that his employer has significant involvement with the proposed sponsor as it is one of the top five shareholders in that company.

2.2 Elizabeth Corley noted she was chair of an asset management company holding some investments in the potential sponsor, but not such as to constitute a conflict for her.

**3. Potential Corporate Sponsorship**

3.1 Charlie Mayfield introduced the proposal.

3.2 The points raised in an open letter to Trustees of April 2022, which had been circulated with the papers, were summarised.

3.3 Members of the executive presented their recommendation.

3.4 Hanbury Strategy proposed a potential approach to communications.

3.5 The legal framework within which Trustees must reach a conclusion was set out.

3.6 There was a detailed discussion by the Trustees of the potential benefits and harms to the Museum of accepting the proposed sponsorship.

3.7 The Trustees requested additional information.

***Action: Director of Advancement***

3.8 The sponsorship proposal will be brought back to the Trustees at the next meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

**Date of next meeting:** 29 June 2023