

BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD

Thursday, 17 July 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 17 July 2025 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chair)
Tobi Ruth Adebekun (Deputy Chair)
Munsur Ali
Stephen Bediako (External Member)
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson

Mark Page (External Member)
Anett Rideg
Jens Riegelsberger (External Member)
Jane Roscoe (External Member)
Despina Tsatsas (External Member)

In Attendance

Brendan Barns

Observers

Michael Asante

Officers:

David Farnsworth	- Interim CEO
Ali Mirza	- Barbican Centre
Jackie Boughton	- Barbican Centre
Natasha Harris	- Barbican Centre
Shanay Jhaveri	- Barbican Centre
Devyani Saltzman	- Barbican Centre
Philippa Simpson	- Barbican Centre
Beau Vigushin	- Barbican Centre
Sarah Wall	- Barbican Centre
Cindy Vallance	- People & Human Resources
John Cater	- Clerk to the Board

1. APOLOGIES

In advance of the meeting, formal apologies for absence were received from Tijs Broeke, Michael Asante, Aaron D'Souza, Zulum Elumogo, Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons, and Irem Yerdelen.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Jaspreet Hodgson declared an interest in Items 6 and 6a, namely the Barbican Renewal Update Report and the Barbican Renewal Programme Milestones Report. As a Member of the Planning & Transportation Committee, Ms Hodgson recused herself from these items and Barbican Renewal matters in general at Barbican Centre Board meetings going forward.

3. **BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 8th May 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Board considered a Report of the Town Clerk concerning appointments to the Board.

In addition to Michael Asante's re-appointment, the Chair highlighted Brendan Barns' interest in restoring the role of Chairman of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to ex-officio status on the Barbican Centre Board.

The Chair indicated his support for this change and several Members welcomed the move as a helpful and logical step. One Member did raise a concern that this would result in elected Members of the Board being in a majority; the Chair acknowledged this concern and suggested that the Board look again at the composition when it carried out its annual review of its Terms of Reference in the autumn, in advance of the Board being formally re-appointed for the 2026/27 civic year at the Court of Common Council in April.

RESOLVED: - that the Board:

- Approved the reappointment of Micheal Asante for a further three-year term, ending in July 2028.
- That the Board endorsed the restoration of the role of the Chairman of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to sit as an ex-officio Member of the Board, pending a Report being submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee to agree to this change in the Board's composition. In addition, the Board will consider its options over the autumn with regards to maintaining the balance on the Board between elected and non-elected Members.

5. **PUBLIC CEO REPORT**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising public updates from across the Centre.

RESOLVED: - that the Board noted the Report.

6. **BARBICAN RENEWAL UPDATES MAY - JULY 2025**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Barbican Renewal Programme.

RESOLVED: - that the Board noted the Report.

a. **Barbican Renewal Planning**

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the first Milestone in the promotion and delivery of the Barbican Renewal Project.

RESOLVED: - that the Board authorise the submission of the Planning Application summarised in Appendix 2 in July 2025.

7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no public questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the departing Despina Tsatsas for all her support during her time as a Member of the Board. Despina had made a significant contribution to the Centre's activities and would be fondly remembered by her fellow Board Members and officers alike.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

10. **NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

11. **NON-PUBLIC CEO REPORT**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising non-public updates from across the Centre.

12. **BARBICAN RENEWAL – DRAWDOWN JULY 2025-JULY 2026**

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning a drawdown of funds for Barbican Renewal.

13. **BARBICAN COMMERCIAL DEEP DIVE**

This item was deferred.

14. **VISUAL ARTS AT THE BARBICAN CENTRE**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Visual Arts at the Centre.

15. ***BARBICAN CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL PROJECTS - UPDATE REPORT**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Centre's Cyclical Works Programme and Capital Projects.

16. ***HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Health and Safety at the Centre.

17. **BUSINESS REVIEW - MARCH - PERIOD 12**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Centre's Business Review for Period 12 (March 2025).

18. **BARBICAN BUSINESS REVIEW: MAY 2025 (PERIOD 2)**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Centre's Business Review for Period 2 (May 2025).

19. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no non-public questions.

20. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other urgent (non-public) business.

21. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED: - that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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