

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES
4 DECEMBER 2015

Minutes of the extraordinary Board meeting held from 10:00 to 13:30 on 4 December 2015 in the Pinewood Room, BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN.

Present:

Greg Dyke (<i>Chair</i>)	Charles Cecil MBE	Ashley Highfield
Libby Savill (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Alison Cornwell	Oona King
Josh Berger CBE	Matthew Justice	Jonathan Ross OBE
Pete Czernin	Peter Kosminsky	Andrea Wong

In attendance:

Amanda Nevill	<i>Chief Executive</i>
David Parkhill	<i>Director of Finance & Resources</i>
Iain Thomson	<i>Board Secretary</i>
Lisa Rowe	<i>Head of Procurement, Projects and Business Performance</i>
Fiona Cookson	<i>Director of External Affairs</i>

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies

Pat Butler
Tom Hooper
Tim Richards

Declarations of Interest

- Amanda Nevill declared an interest as a Trustee of the BFI Trust. Iain Thomson declared an interest as Secretary to the BFI Trust. It was agreed that the nature of these interests was such that they would not be required to leave the room during this meeting.
- Also noted were the interests of most Governors in different aspects of the film industry and various related parties. It was agreed that the nature of these interests was such that none of these Governors would be required to leave the room during the meeting.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- 2.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September were considered and it was resolved to approve them as an accurate record of the meeting.

Appointment of the Chair of the BFI

- 2.2** The Board was advised that the interviews for the position of Chair of the BFI had now been completed. The independent Chair of the assessment panel was now in the process of compiling a report for the Secretary of State to consider. More than one appointable candidate would be put forward for consideration. The report would be approved by the other panel members.

- 2.3** The Board thanked Libby Savill for her considerable efforts throughout the process.

Film Is Fragile

- 2.4** The Board noted that Francesca Vinti was currently unwell and that as a consequence the presentation on the Development campaign, *Film is Fragile*, would be considered at a future meeting of the Board.

3. Our Funding Picture Going Forward

Minute 3.2 has been amended to reflect a resolution from the Board meeting of 27 January. Another minute has been removed for reasons of confidentiality

- 3.1** The cut that the BFI would receive following the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement was outlined to the Board. It equated to 8% in cash terms, 15% in real terms including inflation. The management letter from DCMS had not yet been received so it was not currently clear whether any conditions or requirements had been mandated. The expectation was that the management letter would be received before Christmas.

- 3.2** The Board discussed how the challenge of meeting the cut would be met and resolved that having previously protected all GiA funded partners from cuts as far as was possible in recent years, regrettably they would all receive a 2% reduction in 2016-17. It was confirmed that this should include regional archives and venues.

- 3.3** The Board was advised that DCMS expected that efforts would be directed towards securing industry contribution to the BFI. It was reiterated that the industry would be unlikely to accept the scheme unless it was mandatory. This would be challenging given DCMS's opposition to a mandatory contribution.

- 3.4** A staff day had been arranged to ensure that all staff were fully acquainted with the possible repercussions of the CSR. 34 workshops were conducted throughout the day which were very positive and there was a lot of goodwill. However, morale was currently low because there was a lack of understanding as to why the BFI was being cut more than other cultural institutions.

3.5 It was agreed that it would be pointed out to DCMS that £4m Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funding was ringfenced for Northern Ireland against a total budget of £17m, representing nearly 25% of all GiA funding. This should be made clear to Ministers who may not be aware of the implications of it.

4. BFI Film Centre – Commercial Opportunity

Parts of this minute have been removed for reasons of confidentiality

Lisa Rowe joined the meeting.

4.1 Lisa Rowe outlined developments relating to the potential commercial opportunity for the proposed Film Centre on Hungerford Car Park.

Oona King, Libby Savill and Andrea Wong left the meeting.

4.2 The advantages, risks and mitigations associated with the commercial opportunity were outlined and discussed. The BFI may need to assume responsibility for risks associated with ground contamination. Intrusive surveys would be required to mitigate this risk.

4.3 Having been apprised of all aspects of the proposal the Board acknowledged that it represented a wonderful opportunity. The Executive was asked to test the market to ensure, with the assistance of a third party if necessary, that the sponsorship elements of the deal were competitive.

Lisa Rowe left the meeting.

5. Film Forever 2 – Outline Process and Timetable

Parts of this minute have been removed for reasons of confidentiality

Fiona Cookson joined the meeting.

5.1 The timetable proposed for Film Forever 2 was outlined to the Board.

January - May	Intelligence gathering and evaluation
May	Production of Public Consultation Document
June - September	Public Consultation
September - October	Writing Film Forever 2
November	Launch

5.2 As part of the process the BFI's relationship with video games would be clarified

5.3 An evaluation of Film Forever would be considered in detail as part of the process. The first top line evaluation would be presented to the Board in January.

- 5.4** It was agreed that as part of the wider evaluation a clear understanding of the activities of our funded partners was required to ensure that the governance surrounding future awards continued to be as robust as possible.

Fiona Cookson left the meeting.

6. Board Committees and Normal Business

BFI Activity – CEO Report

- 6.1** Amanda Nevill outlined the pertinent elements of the CEO Report that were noted by the Board.
- 6.2** The Board was advised that a key group of BFI staff had spent two days at the *This Way Up* conference at HOME, Manchester this week. It had proved to be a valuable experience that facilitated a greater understanding of the investments and interventions that the BFI was making.

Finance Report and Management Accounts

- 6.3** The Finance Report and Management Accounts before the Board were noted. The Board was advised that a balanced budget was expected by the year end. It was noted that the forecast for the year had been impacted by a provision of £0.3m for a potential claim for underpayment of VAT following a recent HMRC review of the treatment of VAT on Membership income.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1** It was noted that Ashley Highfield was attending his last meeting as a BFI Governor. The Board expressed its gratitude for Ashley's tireless service over the last six years.