



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 9.30AM IN ROOM WILSON ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE (PI 01)

Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)

Apologies: Simon Hoare; Mr David Lammy; Hannah Bardell; Nic Dakin; Mr Edward Vaizey; Hywel Williams; Nadhim Zahawi

In attendance: Malcom Hay, Curator of Works of Art
Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator
Melanie Unwin, Project Manager, Curator's Office
Pippa Lansdell, Media Officer

The meeting proceeded informally as a quorum of Members were not present.

1) INFORMAL NOTE

Matters arising

The Chair suggested that a minute's silence for the late former Chair of the Committee, Frank Doran, should be held at next meeting.

The Curators updated the Chair on the unveiling of the portrait of Bernie Grant. The portrait would be displayed in the corner of the first floor of Portcullis House on 15 December 2017.

2) Meeting arrangements

Decision

The Chair **agreed** that Committee meeting papers should be circulated in advance and hard copies would be made available at each meeting.

The Chair proposed the Committee should agree the new time and date of Committee meetings by correspondence.

3) Financial statement [M001]

The Chair postponed this agenda item to be discussed at the next formal Committee meeting.

4) 2017 Election Artwork: final proposal [M002]

Emma Gormley Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

The Deputy Curator said that a decision was needed on whether to accept the Election artworks into the Parliamentary Art Collection. The artist had presented her



works to several members of the Committee on Tuesday. The Deputy Curator said that the artist was keen to have the artworks accepted into the collection quickly and to generate press coverage. It was expected that the artworks would be on display at the end of January or early February with the only suitable location being Westminster Hall.

The Project Manager for Vote 100 felt that as pieces of contemporary artwork from a woman it would be beneficial for the artworks to be on display by the 6 February 2018 (when the Vote 100 exhibition would be in the Hall).

The Chair supported the artworks being displayed in Westminster Hall and a press event as many Members would also be interested in listening to the artist talk about the artworks.

The Chair said that if accepted by the Committee a date should be agreed and a media engagement plan circulated to the Committee.

Decision

The Chair **agreed** the Committee should be asked whether to accept the artwork into the Collection and if they had any objection to the proposal to display it in Westminster Hall by correspondence.

4) Portrait of Rt Hon Joan Ruddock for the rolling portrait programme

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, and Anastasia Pollard, Artist, briefed the Committee.

The Chair invited the artist to speak about the portrait.

The artist explained that Dame Joan Ruddock had a very clear idea about how she wanted to be represented in the portrait and how she saw herself in a professional capacity. This led to the decision for the portraiture to have a clear background rather than be set in an office and to have some personal items noticeable in the portrait e.g. the choice of suit, brooch and watch which were gifts from Frank. The artist said she was honoured to paint Dame Joan Ruddock, particularly at this time in her life. The artist confirmed Frank did see the portraiture before he passed away and he was very receptive to it.

The Chair said that the Committee had been very important to Frank—he loved art and portraiture. This portrait was particularly meaningful because it captured this part of their life. The unveiling of the portrait would need to be thought about carefully as Dame Joan Ruddock's influence on the Labour movement and women in Parliament would mean that a lot of people would want to be there.

The Chair thanked Ms Pollard for coming to the meeting and for agreeing to the commission.



Decision

The Chair **agreed** that the Committee should be given the opportunity to view the portrait next week, and Members asked for a decision by correspondence on whether they supported accepting the portrait into the Collection.

[Following the meeting, Members were invited to view the portrait. However, due to other business in the House no Members were able to attend. The decision on whether to accept the portrait into the Collection would be made in the New Year.]

7) DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Committee will next meet on **Wednesday 24 January 2018, at 9.30am.**