

MBC Trustees' Meeting: 13 Aug 2020 Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Acharashraddha (AC – Judith Tomlinson), Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis), Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach - part), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green).

Apologies: none

1. Welcome	Actions
SB welcomed all to the meeting.	
2. Check in	
<p>All present checked in.</p> <p>3. Spiritual Welfare of the Heart Kula</p> <p>SB updated trustees on the current Heart Kula 'process' with Shantigarbha. He had this week shared his short-, medium- and long-term vision for the Centre (which he presented in brief, as follows):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term (next 6 months): re-opening for 1 or 2 days per week in Sep/Oct; some selective 'unfurloughing' in response to this; • Medium term (6 months to 2 years): a need to reduce the team's total hours by between 2.5 and 3 full time equivalents, and to identify the new shape of the team (including its management arrangements). • Long-term (more than 2 years): considering selling parts of current building and using income derived to 'seed' smaller, outlying centres – these and the city centre location to form a sort of 'net' that collectively constitutes the MBC. <p>This had been well received by the rest of the team. SB had also requested offers of reduced hours from team members, which was already beginning to happen.</p> <p>SB also informed trustees that Vidyapala has found a new role, outside the movement, and will therefore be tendering his resignation. SB commented that his current role is absolutely essential for the Centre going forward, particularly in terms of Vidyapala's emphasis on social media and speaking to the younger sangha. It was suggested that he could be invited to the next trustees' meeting to talk about what he feels the role entails.</p> <p>SB also flagged up the fact that Ch, Kevin and Moksavadini will all be retiring within the next year.</p>	<p>SB to invite Vidyapala to next meeting</p>
<p>4. Earth Café</p> <p>Patricia Cole (Earth's manager) recently met with SB, and they agreed that the café would cease trading with immediate effect. SB sincerely thanked Patricia for all her past effort; she offered her assistance for any future café on the premises. Discussion took place as to how the trustees' (and the sangha's) appreciation could best be expressed (action opposite).</p> <p>Some discussion followed of possible future uses for the space currently occupied by the café (including some suggestions recently floated by senior sangha members). SB remarked that, even in the current circumstances, there is demand for commercial premises in the Northern Quarter.</p>	<p>SB and VS to discuss</p>

5. Use of office vacated by Clear Vision

SB confirmed that he has agreed a deal with our fast fibre broadband providers, OneTek, for them to set up a small office in the space, from 01 Sep, for a rent of £450 per month.

6. Logistics of re-opening Centre

Trustees discussed the desirability of re-opening on a weekday when a led meditation is being held as a hybrid event. Some discussion occurred as to the crucial importance of technical arrangements (cameras, microphones, etc.) in making hybrid events successful. It was felt that the expertise of some individuals who have relevant technical experience, and who are currently available, should be enlisted (as per the action opposite).

AJ to approach a variety of experts across Triratna

7. Minutes of meeting of 30 Jul and matters arising

The minutes were agreed, with no matters arising.

8. Welcoming of people of colour and devising a diversity strategy

DN had proposed that, in the wake of the Sangha meetings relating to race and ethnicity organised by Suryaka, Varasakhi and Ratnasagara, the Trustees could more formally express their support and encourage a fuller exploration of issues relating to race and diversity more generally. This would offer opportunities for Sangha members to explore and share their experiences, views and unconscious beliefs in these areas. A broad ranging discussion followed in which Trustees expressed their support for such an exploration while recognising that such initiatives need to be held in a dharmic context. It was also acknowledged that there needs to be a clear distinction between the role of the MBC as host to events and the role of those leading events (which can be any member of the Sangha) and that this needs to be communicated clearly to the Sangha. It was concluded that the Trustees encouraged and supported the initiatives of Suryaka, Varasakkhi and Ratnasagara. It was suggested that the MBC consider having a special adviser and lead in the overall area of diversity.

9. Any Other Business

None

Next Trustees' Meetings – Thu 27 Aug, 13.30 to 15.30.