

# MBC Trustees' Meeting, 27 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), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach - part), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green).

**Apologies:** Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd)

1. Welcome	Actions
SB welcomed all to the meeting.	
2. Check in	
All present checked in.	
3. Minutes of meeting of 30 Jul and matters arising	
<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is no longer appropriate for Vidyapala to attend a trustees' meeting, as he is now serving his notice.</li> <li>Earth Café: Claire Morris has offered to set up a fundraising page in support of Patricia. It was suggested that Vidyapala might set up a blog facility on the web site, for sangha members to rejoice in Patricia (see action opposite). MS also offered to lead a sangha night soon, during which the institutions of both Clear Vision &amp; Earth could be rejoiced in.</li> <li>Logistics of re-opening: AJ reported on his helpful conversations about hybrid events, especially with Sheffield and Brixton Buddhist Centres. SB gave an update on the intended incremental introduction of such events. It was also questioned whether bookings for physical classes should involve taking payments at the time of booking.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SB</b> to pass request to Vidyapala</p> <p><b>AJ</b> to forward technical recommendations to SB &amp; Amaradaya.</p> <p><b>Ch</b> to look into payment arrangements.</p>
4. After Earth Café – future uses of basement space	
<p>SB reported on a recent presentation by Sanghadhara around a possible future TBRL café, which was well-attended and very positive. (Attendees included Keturaja of Windhorse Trust, who may be able to provide a loan; Lynne-Marie Eccleston, who has experience of startup businesses, and Bex Frost, who already has experience of a similar project in Glasgow.) The prospect was seen as encouraging, although many practical questions would need to be answered.</p> <p>It would be important for the MBC to understand the likely timeline for opening, and the significant place in the local sangha that the café might occupy, which might influence our expectations of rent. It was also felt that the project's ability to recruit the right people 'on the ground' would be essential.</p> <p>VS offered to be a 'trustee connection' with the project.</p>	

## 5. Proposed Heart Kula structure

SB shared a diagram of the draft structure that had been discussed by the Heart Kula the previous day. This detailed both existing ('transitional') and future reporting lines. He also shared a diagram outlining a likely resulting structure from summer 2021 onwards, which represented a reduction of approximately a third of current full-time equivalents. SB detailed his current understanding of specific reductions in hours, although discussions with individuals were still ongoing.

Trustees were advised that a new appointment for Communications Manager was made on the previous day, with Tom Connolly the successful candidate.

A variety of responses followed; SB emphasized the lean nature of the proposed structure, which would necessarily go hand-in-hand with more proactive input to running the Centre from sangha volunteers. It also acknowledges the possibility of fewer opening hours than have been the case in the past.

On the question of the loss of the fundraiser's role, SB asserted his belief that a dedicated role in this area is not merited; other channels (e.g. the 'dana kula') could instead fulfill this role.

Some trustees strongly supported a full day's discussion to do proper justice to some of the significant, strategic questions raised for the longer-term future, and to meet trustees' intrinsic responsibility of oversight.

For the time being, the interim structure was agreed, although the long-term one was referred to the more complete discussion (see below).

## 6. Date for trustees' 'away day'

The preferred day was **Tue 22 Sep**, from 09.30 to 16.30 (with occasional meditations to break up the long session). The suggested programme is:

- 09.30 meditation & chanting (DN)
- 10.00 reporting-in
- 10.30 business
- 13.00 lunch
- 13.30 body scan (DN)
- 13.50 business
- 16.25 transference of merits
- 16.30 end

Trustees are invited to offer agenda items to SB in advance.

All

## 7. Any Other Business

None

**Next Trustees' Meeting – Thu 17 Sep, 13.30 to 15.30.**