

# MBC Trustees' Meeting: 30 Jul 2020 Minutes

## Attendees:

**Present:** Silabodhi (SB -Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Acharashraddha (AC – Judith Tomlinson), Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green).

**Apologies:** Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt), Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis)

1. Welcome	Actions
SB welcomed all to the meeting.	
2. Check in	
All present checked in.	
3. Spiritual Welfare of the Sangha	
<p>Feedback on the new online Sangha Night series was deemed very positive. It was noted that MS and Taravandana have committed to run these evenings fortnightly until the end of September so a new team is needed from 4<sup>th</sup> October. It was observed that it was most effective to have a consistent team for this regular event.</p>	<p>New Sangha Night team needed.</p>
<p>SB reported that led meditation hybrid sessions (part online, part in MBC) are to be organised from September, virus regulations permitting. SB to contact Brixton Centre (who have most experience running such events) to share good practice.</p>	<p>SB to contact Brixton Centre regarding the running of hybrid events.</p>
<p>There was discussion of the logistics of running other hybrid events, such as the Sangha ordination sendoff for Gill Parry and Sandy Staplehurst. It was also agreed that this sendoff be amalgamated with the men's ordination sendoff (for Michael Proctor and Alex).</p>	
<p>There was discussion of a possible sangha picnic, subject to virus regulations. Update: SB has since circulated a document from Ipswich outlining C19 requirements although the likelihood of such an event is postponed due to the new 31 July virus measures now enforced which preclude multi-household gatherings.</p>	
4. Spiritual welfare of the Heart Kula: Current restorative process	
<p>VS gave an update on the process currently underway after two meetings with Shantigarbha as external facilitator. VS said that it was helpful to discuss the experiences of lockdown and furloughing for the HK. Even if it is a challenging process at times, there is a sense for those involved that it is effective and valuable. It is acknowledged that some of the later work needed relating to the future (Centre staffing, hours, etc) will need to be done after these meetings with SG have taken place.</p>	
<p>The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the Trustees have confidence in the HK and in the restorative process.</li> <li>• that the HK needs more support from the Trustees and to achieve this, members of the Trustees would meet regularly with the HK so that there is more effective liaison between the Trustees and the HK generally.</li> <li>• that V might act as informal KM to the HK.</li> <li>• That this has been a difficult time for the HK in which they have been working with a considerable amount of dukkha. It was hoped that these experiences could be discussed in a constructive way.</li> </ul>	

**5. Minutes of meeting of 16 July and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed. The only MA related to SB inviting VP to a future Trustees' meeting. SB to check if VP still wants to come to talk to the Trustees.

**SB to discuss VP coming to Trustees' meeting with VP.**

**6. Opening the Centre and the Unfurloughing Process**

SB reported that prior to the Centre being partially re-opened from 1 September, a Covid-19 health and safety assessment needs to be carried out and associated practical measures need to be taken (installation of screens, sanitiser, distancing measures, track and trace, etc.). This will require the partial and flexible unfurloughing of SJ, Kevin and Steve. The cost implications of this unfurloughing, for which SB sought approval, are approximately £1400 or £46 per day, which had not been budgeted to date. It was noted that the furlough scheme runs until the end of October. The flexible and partial unfurloughing of SJ, Kevin and Steve was agreed.

**SB to send out unfurloughing letters to SJ, Kevin and Steve.**

V and AS were also encouraged to submit proposals to work for a few hours as mitra convenors, given that this work is currently needed.

A full Red Lotus kula will also be convened to plan the programme of events.

It was acknowledged that once the C-19 safety assessment has been carried out, the hours of partial re-opening could be discussed. SB suggested that it was sensible to envisage a shorter opening day for the Centre.

**7. Any Other Business**

Bhante Sangharakshita's Birthday Puja: in line with the previous discussion, it was agreed to celebrate instead the anniversary of Bhante's death later this year.

**Next Trustees' Meetings – Thu 13 August 2020, 13.30 to 15.30;  
Thu 27 August 13.30 to 15.30.**