

1. MBC Trustees' Meeting, 8 Oct 2020 - Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB - Chris [Effendowicz](#)) , Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis) , Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Acharashraddha (AS – Judith Tomlinson), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach)

Apologies: Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd) , Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt)

Welcome	Actions
Welcomed all to the meeting.	
Check in	
All present checked in.	
Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Heart Kula	
<p>Suvannasiha, Karunasuri, Buddhasamagama and Shraddhavadin have all returned from their respective ordination retreats. It was also noted that Robin Ellis has received her ordination invite for next year. Parami has been (virtually) visiting Manchester and giving a series of sangha night talks. A men's kula (Ratnguna, Arthavadin, Mahasraddha and Vishangka) has developed over the past few months and this has resulted in a series of 3 Essential Dharma training sessions for men from October onward.</p> <p>In terms of Heart Kula, Acharashraddha's announcement that she is leaving has had an effect, but things are relatively stable and healthy. Sundeep and VS have been talking about strengthening aspects of the team as a right livelihood, and SB/VS and Sundeep are going to start meeting regularly too. Once furlough scheme has ended this may help even up things in the team more.</p> <p>It was noted that Sthirajyoti will be taking on the safeguarding role from Vishangka in the new team structure.</p> Minutes of meeting of 10th Sept	
<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <p>SB has had further discussions with Dan Hope who is interested in setting up a new vegan restaurant in the basement space. This could start as a 'pop-up' restaurant to trial using the space. Dan is interested in Sanghadhara's idea for a new TBRL to run alongside it in the same space. Claire Morris has pulled out of the development group for the the new TBRL.</p>	

Resignation of Acharashraddha as a Trustee

AS stated that she was willing to step down as a Trustee in January to allow Sundeep to join the Trustees. Sundeep will join the Trustees in January and share taking minutes with VS for a specified period. VS will take minutes till the end of the year. There had been a discussion with Mary Tait about becoming assistant to the Trustees (minute taker and advisor etc), but it was felt that it was not the right time to do this.

Action Ch to talk to Mary Tait

ECA financial contribution from MBC

We agreed that we would maintain our £4K a year contribution to the work of the ECA. We agreed that we would review this next year and hope to increase the amount we give. The ECA would also welcome any thoughts from the Trustees about 3 specific posts potentially funded by the ECA – Young Persons person, Diversity person and Media Liaison person. We agreed that we would add this to next agenda for further discussion.

Action put ECA roles on next agenda

SB joining ECA Exec

Agreed that SB should join ECA Exec on a 6 month trial and review his workload after 6 months.

Staff Leaving Packages

Agreed to give DN her leaving package which had been postponed from last year. We would review each instance of this package being offered and our financial situation. Some recent members of the team have waived the package. AJ suggested that an amount of money is budgeted each year for this purpose.

Ch to talk to MV about budgeting for this

Proposed vegan cafe in basement and sale of alcohol

Dan Hope has stated his wish to sell alcohol with food in proposed cafe (though not a bar). Discussion followed with some reservation of this from an ethical point of view -

- Is that space separate to the MBC? How will it be promoted – from MBC as well? How will the public perceive the cafe – as part of the MBC?
- There are people in the sangha affected by issues of alcohol addiction etc – how will this be perceived?
- It raises an ethical conflict for us, though Buddhism is not 'puritanical'
- What do we expect of our tenants ethically?

Agreed that SB to discuss further with Dan and see what is possible about not having alcohol. We acknowledged that this puts SB in difficult position when he's trying to secure the financial future of the MBC. We appreciated him bringing it to the Trustee meeting.

SB to discuss further with Dan Hope and bring to next meeting

Any Other Business

None

Next Trustees' Meeting – Thurs 22 Oct 1.30-3.30pm