

1. MBC Trustees' Meeting, 22 Oct 2020 - Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) , Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis), , Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd)

Apologies: Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt) Acharashraddha (AS – Judith Tomlinson), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach)

| Welcome | Action |
|---|---|
| Welcomed all to the meeting. | |
| Check in | |
| All present checked in. | |
| Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Heart Kula | |
| <p>It was noted that Helen Sullivan has received her ordination invite for next year.</p> <p>2 women have said they are leaving the women's community, Jyotivana.</p> <p>The 3 Essential Dharma training sessions for men start on Sunday 25th Oct</p> <p>Both SB and VS noted how well Tom C is energizing the communications for the MBC. SB also said we need to explore how best to work with how things are changing in the sangha (see item 6)</p> <p>DK noted we need to organize a sangha appreciation of Arthavadin when he leaves Manchester. It was also noted that Ratnguna will be leaving Manchester in 2021</p> | |
| Minutes of meeting of 8th Oct | |
| <p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <p>Ch has spoken to Mary T about not becoming Trustee assistant. It was felt that it would be useful for DN to speak with her too.</p> <p>Decided not to discuss ECA roles in Trustee meeting. If Trustees have any comments please email to SB.</p> <p>Ch has spoken to MV about budgeting for staff leaving packages.</p> <p>SB has had further discussions with Dan Hope about the issue of selling alcohol in the proposed new vegan restaurant. Discussions to continue.</p> | <p>DN to speak with Mary T</p> <p>SB to meet again with Dan</p> |
| 1. Update on new team configuration | |
| <p>Furlough scheme ends Oct 31st. Reduced hours start Nov 1st – Sthirajyoti now 4 days; Steve 2days; Acharashraddha 4 days. From 1st Jan - Ch down to 2 days; Kevin 3 days.</p> <p>Sal contract ends end of March ; Amaradaya contract ends end of Dec.</p> | |
| <p>New team structure comes into effect from 1st jan, with both VS and Sundeep taking on managerial responsibilities. Ch to support and handover till he retires in the summer.</p> | |
| <p>DN asked about the programme management and how Sundeep will manage to do that as well as other responsibilities. SB said that already Buddhasamagama has taken on organizing meditation taster classes, and Sundeep will try and set up similar arrangements with volunteers.</p> | |
| <p>DK asked how confident we are in engaging more volunteers. SB/Ch/VS said we're in uncertain territory, but there are always examples of people coming forward to help.</p> | |
| <p>Trustees agreed new configuration and timescale.</p> | |

2. Communities

Existing arrangement with communities when members leave, is that remaining members meet the rental shortfall.

Understanding that it is difficult at the moment to recruit new community members.

What can MBC reasonably expect from communities in this position?

SB/AJ suggested a principle that a 'middle way' arrangement, where the shortfall is met by both MBC and community members and negotiated between both parties.

Agreed.

3. Bodywise

General discussion about what Bodywise can reasonably expect from the MBC re: reception, heating, lights on etc, in times of reduced opening and resourcing.

Discussions ongoing with Bodywise.

Ch noted how helpful it is for the Trustee meeting to be a sounding board for management issues

4. Roof

Agreed to go ahead with a survey and roof repairs with Colin. SB to contact Colin and then hand over to Steve.

SB to contact Colin.

5. Heart Kula meeting - 4th Nov

SB requested that trustees attend the Heart Kula meeting on Weds 4th Nov, 9.30am onward. This will be first full week back working for everyone after furlough scheme ends, and SB felt it would be morally supportive if Trustees attended to wish us well, do a dedication ceremony etc. DN and DK said they could go.

Ch to send zoom link to all Trustees

Invite to all other Trustees open.

6. Involving new people in sangha

Decided to discuss this issue at RLK meeting

SB to put on RLK agenda

7. Covid conversations with Gosinga

Ch described recent events at Gosinga with a member testing positive for Covid, and discussions about self-isolation for other community members. Issues of ambiguity in professional advice given, anxiety and difficulties in communication between MBC and Gosinga were highlighted.

It was noted that Moksavadini is currently the team contact for community members, but that a forum between communities and the MBC was maybe needed.

8. Trustee meetings

We agreed that the Trustees would now meet every three weeks rather than every two.

Any Other Business

None

Next Trustees' Meeting – Thurs 12th Nov 1.30-3.30pm