

MBC Trustees' Meeting, 12 Nov 2020 - Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) , Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis) , Vishangka (VS – Keith Green) , Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt), Acharashraddha (AS – Judith Tomlinson)

Apologies: Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), 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>Recent day for women training for ordination had 51 participants. Good turnout, and there seems to be a positive momentum in the women's sangha, in part to do with several ordination invites for next year. However, upcoming women's retreat has fewer numbers – 15, and AS noted mixed responses to the online experience – some loving it, some finding it challenging.</p> <p>VS reported that recent Essential Dharma training session for men, was positive. 21 men attended. Second session is on 22nd Nov. One of those attending, Stephen Jeffrey's has recently asked for ordination.</p> <p>SB that he thinks there's a lot of energy in the sangha – particularly from younger people – eg online study, book groups etc. We will need to think how we support this post covid and convert back to a physical sangha.</p> <p>Heart Kula is doing ok. Decision made recently for all the team to be flexibly furloughed after shut down of the MBC again. Decision arrived at harmoniously. Acknowledgment that balance between work and not working is still being worked out in practice by the team.</p>	
Minutes of meeting of 22nd Oct	
<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <p>DN to speak Mary T – not sure if this has happened yet. CN said he's spoken again with Mary, which had been positive.</p> <p>MBC roof being mended today, and Steve is overseeing this.</p> <p>RLK in ongoing discussions about involvement of newer people to the sangha.</p> <p>DN leaving package agreed at previous meeting will be split over two years.</p> <p>1. Team update</p> <p>Team have all been flexibly furloughed after lockdown decision and MBC closing again. This is initially for November, but will be reviewed dependent on further lockdown measures etc. Agreed that this discussion will continue and decisions will be made within the Heart Kula rather than Trustees.</p> <p>Amaradaya contract is now ending end of Nov, as his remit to help set up hybrid events has been fulfilled. Amaradaya is happy with this decision.</p> <p>DK asked how further furloughing is helping the financial situation. Difficult to say just yet. SB noted we need to keep a balance of keeping the team engaged and saving money.</p>	
2. Women's Mitra Convenor and Acharashraddha leaving	
<p>Noted that there have been expressions of interest locally in stepping into MC role. A local advert will be sent out to Dharmacarinis. AS/VS to organise advert being sent out and to oversee this process.</p>	DK to talk to MC kula about supporting AS as she leaves
Discussed supporting AS as she leaves. VS encouraged Trustees to support her as	

best we can. DK said she would speak with women's MC Kula about supporting AS too. She also said it was a strange time for anyone to leave the MBC, with Covid situation etc.

Trustees also agreed that AS will receive the financial leaving package for employees.

3. Developing courses and supporting teachers

Lynne-Marie is keen to volunteer and help support teachers and develop our courses. CN has held this role over the past few years (although has stepped back from this recently due to reduced working hours. SB has also done some of this work). Proposal that Lynne-Marie steps into this role as a volunteer, with CN also continuing being involved voluntarily after he retires. This is an example of how SB wants things to develop at the MBC, with more sangha members stepping into responsibilities voluntarily.

General discussion about the issues involved -

Would the role be called 'Special Advisor'?

Important that kalyana mitrata is emphasised rather than relating to the role 'professionally'.

Important that CN would do main mentoring as senior OM.

Should the Chair and MC's be doing this work?

As we move to this model of running the MBC, do we need to think more principally about what is important and how to ensure this is happening?

Agreed that we would discuss further at next meeting. DK and VS to liaise to lead and focus this discussion

4. Cafe

SB and Karunatara have had continued discussion with Dan Hope about the proposed vegan cafe. Proposal is that Dan tries a 'pop-up' cafe in January (part of 'Veganuary') combining donut/coffee outlet in daytime and pizza restaurant in evening. Will also include take away options. SB has agreed a short term contract for this – includes both rent and percentage of sales. This will be reviewed after January, and success of cafe is more known. DK suggested that contract could be for longer as January is difficult period for any outlet. SB to suggest this to Dan. Trustees agreed to proposal.

SB to put on next
Trustee agenda
DK/VS to chat and
lead discussion at
next meeting.

SB to contact Dan H
to suggest longer
initial contract

Any Other Business

None

Next Trustees' Meeting – Thurs 3rd Dec 1.30-3.30pm