

# MBC Trustees' Meeting, 3 Dec 2020 - Minutes

## Attendees:

**Present:** Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) , Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis), , Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Acharashraddha (AS – Judith Tomlinson), Dayanandi (DN – Christine Robertson), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach)

**Apologies:** Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt)

Welcome	Action
Welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>Check in</b>	
All present checked in.	
<b>Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Heart Kula</b>	
<p>Women's retreat went well – 20 attended. Women's order meeting went well too. A new women's study group will start in the new year. Siladevi will lead. Advert for women's mitra convenor had been emailed to local order.</p> <p>Recent Essential Dharma Training sessions benn going well – last one in December. Upekshapriya and Sanghadhara's study group is gaining momentum – 14 men now attending. Will start first year of the study course from next week.</p> <p>Sangha Day Festival went well – good mix of international and local events.</p> <p>Mitra Ceremonies planned for 29<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>MS raised the issue of relating to the mitra convenor role in terms of hours and pay (as we had done for the advert). What effect does this have on the spiritual health of the centre? He sees the role as vocational and not measured in hours etc. It was also noted that pay and hours have to be quantified for the purpose of an advert etc.</p> <p>Heart Kula is doing ok. Meeting via Zoom still has it's effects, as does AS leaving.</p>	
<b>Minutes of meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	
<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <p>DN spoken to Mary T.</p> <p>DK still to raise supporting AS in Women's MC Kula.</p> <p>SB to agree two month trial with Dan H re: vegan cafe.</p>	<p>DK to talk to MC kula about supporting AS as she leaves</p>
<b>1. Twinning with Indian Centre</b>	
<p>VS raised the idea of twinning with an Indian centre to strengthen our links with Indian wing of the movement and our understanding of Ambedkar etc. We have been twinned with Nagpur previously but that has lapsed now. VS spoken to Ratnasagara about the idea and he has some ideas of which centre it might be.</p> <p>General agreement with the idea. Things to note -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a good, sustainable, realistic plan of how we might do this</li> <li>• Be good to contact Amrutasiddhi to see if a particular centre would be good</li> <li>• Get a group together to overseeing</li> </ul> <p>VS to speak again with Ratnasagara to explore how to take forward</p>	<p>VS to speak to RS</p>
<b>3. Developing courses and supporting teachers</b>	
<p>Lynne-Marie, CN and SB met to discuss her being involved with developing courses and teaching. Proposal that CN/LME form the heart of a new teaching kula – reporting to the RLK and Trustees every so often. General agreement with the proposal. Things to note -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep live communication going with the Trustees meeting – ensuring dialogue about the spirit and principals of what we teach</li> </ul>	

- Need to ensure that we keep up to date technically with teaching platforms
- Various people could contribute at particular times eg the relationship between intro level teaching and study groups etc
- General appreciation of both LME for volunteering and CN for keeping involved post retirement

CN/LME to meet and work out mechanisms of the kula and for different inputs to be involved

CN/LME to meet to discuss mechanism of kula

### 3. Dayanandi's sabbatical 2021

DN is taking sabbatical for most of 2021. Will be letting go of her main responsibilities – college, MC kula, women's kulas etc. Taking a 2 month solitary in March.

DN will take sabbatical for MBC Trustees too. Agreement that she will re-join at end of sabbatical (she will review at that point and will keep option of resigning as a Trustee). SB noted that she will be proposed and voted in to Trustees at 2021 AGM as usual.

### 4. New Trustees

SB raised again the need for some new Trustees – to create more balance between internal/external Trustees. Suggestion that we email suggestions to each other and take it from there. MS & DN suggested we might need to change the timing of the Trustee meeting to early eve/weekends.

Trustees to email suggestions of new Trustees.

### 5. Creating Stability in 2021 (post Covid)

SB raised issue of how we try and regain some stability in the sangha, and strengthen our collective sense of ourselves as a community. He suggests that we prioritize coming back into the city centre base for sangha activities etc. Things to note -

- Who is it who needs the stability? What are sangha members saying? How many?
- There'll always be a Manchester Buddhist Centre, whatever form it may take in the future. This is it's evolution.
- Some people say they are desperate to get back to the Centre, and are tired with Zoom
- Has a culture shift started already – are people willing to come back to a city centre anymore?
- Need to engage the sangha in this conversation

To be continued at next meeting.

Add item to next agenda

### Any Other Business

Noted we will rejoice in both Dayanandi and Acharashraddha at next meeting as it will be there last meeting.

**Next Trustees' Meeting – Thurs 17th Dec 1.30-3.30pm**