

MBC Trustees' Meeting, 21 Jan 2021 - Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) , Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis) , Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Sundeep Grewal (SG), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt), Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert)

Apologies: Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd)

Welcome	Action
Welcomed all to the meeting, in particular Sundeep to her first meeting as a Trustee.	
Check in	
All present checked in.	
Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Heart Kula	
<p>Women's mitra convenor role recruitment is in process. Recent women's gathering had 66+ women attend. Positive energy and good way to start the year. Good way to begin to say goodbye at Acharashraddha.</p> <p>Men's mitra convening kula is in process of meeting again with new members – Aparajita and Priyavadita. Arthavadin has now left the kula. Vishangka is meeting regularly with the 3 men waiting to be mitras.</p> <p>Young Buddhist group is doing well – doubled in size recently. Good that Tom C is now involved. Also high numbers at Tools class.</p> <p>Heart Kula is doing ok – pragmatically getting on with the work that's needed. Not easy keeping a sense of the team using zoom for meetings etc.</p>	
Minutes of meeting of 17th Dec	
<p>The minutes were agreed.</p> <p>In matters arising:</p> <p>VS has spoken to Ratnasagara about twinning with Indian centre. Ratnasagara strongly recommends the Kalewadi - Dehu Road Centre in Pune. He has existing connections there and has spoken to the Chair of that centre, who is discussing it with his own trustees. VS will speak to RS again to see where things are up to.</p> <p>SB has sorted a list of OMs for suggestions as new trustees (see item 2)</p> <p>1. Finances update</p> <p>SB reported on financial picture for 2020. Reserves have increased from £68K to £106K – this is largely due to help from the furlough scheme, donations and reductions in staffing hours.</p> <p>2020 Income: £242K Donations have been strong. Community/business rental income, course fees, bookshop all reduced.</p> <p>2020 Expenditure: £197K Staff costs, bookshop expenditure, utilities, maintenance costs, all reduced</p> <p>SB generally optimistic about the financial picture going into 2021.</p> <p>2. New Trustees</p> <p>Aparajita elected as charity secretary, replacing Acharashraddha.</p> <p>Various factors at play as to what is needed – relevant skills, spiritual vision and experience, gender balance, balance of internal/external trustees. We need to ensure</p>	

good governance. If we become incorporated, the Charity Commission will be more favourable if good balance of internal/external trustees demonstrated.

Wide ranging discussion -

- need to look at what qualities exist already in the trustees and see what any new trustee will add to the mix
- need to be careful not to rely on individuals being looked to as representatives of various issues. Needs to be everyone's responsibility.
- Need to think about our future spiritual direction and what will be needed.
- Need fresh energy, experience and vision

SB to suggest ideas of who might be approached.

3. Publicising Triratna-wide events in MBC calendar

SG brought a request to publicise wider Triratna events for specific groups within MBC communications – website etc. Discussion followed including -

- we don't want it to keep people separate but to help them explore particular issues and then come back into the wider sangha
- should people be signposted to events form a static place on the website or within monthly calendar and emails?
- this reflects the times we are in – many online event shave emerged over the past year

Agreed that in principal we support this, and trust SG and Tom C to work out the detail.

4. International Element to Festivals

SB informed us that it had been agreed at recent ECA that there will be an international element continuing into Triratna Day and Sangha Day this year.

Any Other Business

None

Next Trustees' Meeting – Thurs 11th Feb 1.30-3.30pm