

MBC Trustees Meeting: 04 Mar 2021 Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB -Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert - part), Chandana (Ch - Stuart Orvis), Claire Morris (CM), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt - part), Suryaka (SK - Helen Ellis), Sundeep Grewal (SG), Vidyapala (VP- Paul Whitehead)

Apologies: Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leach), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green)

1. Welcome and Apologies	Actions
<p>SB welcomed all to the meeting, particularly Claire, Suryaka and Vidyapala as brand-new trustees.</p> <p>Apologies received from MS and VS.</p>	
<p>2. Check in</p> <p>All present checked in.</p>	
<p>3. Spiritual Welfare of MBC Sangha & Centre Team</p> <p>On the women's side, SK reported on the invitation to ordination of Debbie Jones, Nadia Miller's request for ordination, and the well-attended (66) women's day on 28 Feb. She and Karunatarra are keen to celebrate the diversity (in all senses) of the women's sangha. SK felt that she was beginning her role at a very positive time for this wing of the sangha. SG added that 2 new mitra study groups (led by Siladevi & Vajramudita) are soon beginning.</p> <p>For the Men's Sangha, SB reported on VS's continuing absence, and on the increasingly energetic demand coming from younger men (and also women!).</p> <p>Regarding the Heart Kula, Ch reported on the ongoing uncertainty around the timescale for re-opening, as well as the continuation of 'flexible furloughing' to the end of Sep. He also mentioned the very recent appointment of Buddhasamagama as new Finance Manager, and Louise Goldwater as temporary cover for Sundeep during Jul-Sep.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of minutes of 11 Feb 2021</p> <p>Approved as a true record.</p>	
<p>5. Matters Arising</p> <p>The action for the Red Lotus Kula, to look at potential members for new kulas, is still outstanding.</p> <p>Similarly, the action concerning 'blue sky thinking' is arguably dependent upon further discussion by the trustees before we can be in a position to invite others to join the discussion. However, PS suggested that this would of itself negate the idea of 'blue sky thinking' – although, at the same time, trustees have a responsibility to provide leadership. Some detailed discussion around this perceived tension followed (whilst acknowledging that agenda item (8) will also address this area).</p> <p>SB suggested that the focus of the future discussion should be 'Triratna Manchester', so as to assume no automatic dependency on the current geographic centre.</p>	

<p>6. Volunteer Assistant to the Trustees</p>	
<p>SB revived the suggestion that we could ask a previously-suggested person, with a good deal of charity trustee experience, to play this role. SB felt strongly that the trustees' previous decision, not to pursue an invitation to this person, was the wrong one. It was agreed that invitation should now be repeated, in a spirit of openness about what the role would entail.</p> <p>7. Future days/times/frequency of trustees meetings</p>	<p>SB to make new approach.</p>
<p>After a discussion around the possible options, it was felt that a decision should, realistically, be made only for the next 2 or 3 meetings. Having said that, the preferred timing was for Wed evenings, from 18.30.</p> <p>8. Future priorities emerging from MBC Vision statement</p>	<p>SB to check out suggested timing with absent trustees.</p>
<p>It was felt that this discussion should be deferred to a dedicated half-day meeting, perhaps held by a skilled (probably external) facilitator.</p> <p>9. Any Other Business</p>	<p>SB to circulate a Doodle poll to establish availability for a half-day discussion.</p>
<p>Annual General Meeting – this has now been delayed beyond May, but will not occur any later than Sep. The format of the meeting may be adapted to one which is more appealing to prospective attendees.</p>	

Next Trustee Meeting – suggested Wed 31 Mar, 18.30-20.30 (to be confirmed)