

MBC Trustees Meeting: 31 Mar 2021 Minutes

Attendees:

Present: Silabodhi (SB -Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Aparajita (AJ – Ajay Gilbert), Claire Morris (CM), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Prasadu (PS – Andrew Porritt - part), Mahasraddha (MS - Mark Leach), Suryaka (SK - Helen Ellis), Sundeep Grewal (SG), Vidyapala (VP- Paul Whitehead), Mary Tait (MT)

Apologies: Vishangka (VS – Keith Green) Chandana (Ch – Stuart Orvis)

1. Welcome and Apologies	Actions
<p>SB welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the new 'Assistant to the Trustees', Mary Tait. Mary also received a warm welcome from the trustees and would like to express her appreciation of this.</p> <p>Apologies received from VS and CH</p>	
<p>2. Check in</p> <p>All present checked in.</p>	
<p>3. Spiritual Welfare of MBC Sangha & Centre Team</p> <p>Centre Team: there is a lightness and friendliness in the Centre team at the moment whose members are currently facing much change and challenge. Trustees have been offering friendly support.</p> <p>Men's Sangha: VS's contribution as mitra convener is much missed and there have been no men's events for a while. It was proposed that members of the Mitra Convenor Kula might cover some of the responsibilities of the mitra convener until VS is able to return.</p> <p>There is a lot of enthusiasm for volunteering among newer members, particularly around technical support. The Triratna wide Gay Men's group is popular, as is the study group set up by Sanghadhara and Upekshapriya. We need to engage with this and harness their enthusiasm.</p> <p>Concern was expressed regarding the wellbeing of the men's community in Salford. Members of the community have left, creating a financial void and recruiting new members has not proved easy. Dialogue is taking place with Trustees which has been welcomed.</p> <p>Check with Trustees as to whether a meeting has taken place between the two men's communities to discuss ways in which new applicants could be accommodated.</p> <p>Check with the Salford Community as to whether the Trustees could be helpful in any way.</p> <p>Women's Sangha:</p> <p>Is going well. There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm. SK is contacting dharmacarinis who have offered to help and encouraging them to share their experience and journey with other women, the question being 'what is needed to make a broader connection with each other?'. The Mitra Convenor Kula is meeting and a Women's Gathering is being planned.</p>	<p>Silabodhi</p> <p>Mahasraddha</p>
<p>4. Approval of Minutes of 04 Mar 2021</p> <p>Approved as a true record</p>	

<p>5. Matters Arising</p>	
<p>Ongoing Actions Action for the Red Lotus Kula, to look at potential members for new festivals etc. kulas. There is a proposed date, to be confirmed, of Sunday 11th April to hold a half day meeting to craft the MBC Vision statement. Arthavadin has kindly agreed to facilitate. To be confirmed</p> <p>Actions Completed Assistant to the Trustees appointed. Meetings in the short term will be monthly on a Wednesday from 1830 to 2030.</p>	<p>RLK</p> <p>Silabodhi</p>
<p>6. Approval for Signature Changes to MBC Bank Account</p>	
<p>The RBS has requested a copy of the minutes authorising additional signatories to the MBC bank account. It is proposed the following be added: Silabodhi (Chris Effendowicz) Buddhasamagama (Michael Proctor) Suryaka (Helen Ellis) Sundeeep Grewal Vishangka (Keith Green) The additions were unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>7. Future priorities emerging from MBC Vision statement</p>	
<p>To be discussed following the vision day meeting</p>	
<p>8. Hybrid Offer of Events post Lockdown</p>	
<p>A poll is being circulated to those who are attending the Monday Meditation, Lunchtime Meditation, Sangha nights and Tools for Living to get information on demographics and feedback on how events are currently offered. The results of these will feed into the decision on the way forward. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on running one event with some people on zoom and some in the room has not been very positive. There is still the option of running one event online and one event in house, but separately at a different time. • It will be important to have good kit to make it work well. • For meetings such as Study groups, Chapters, TFO Groups etc. it would be up the leaders or attendees to decide. <p>Possible strategies re online events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote online events at other Centres where we do not have a similar offering. 	

- Promote other events online only where they do not clash with an MBC event.
- Develop our own momentum and events rather than the use of offerings from other centres.
- Think about 'Triratna offerings' rather than MBC/LBC etc. It would be good to know what the Buddhist Centre Online is planning.
- Use messaging to encourage people to attend the Centre.

Pros of Online Offerings:

- Major events could be held for people who are unable to meet together at a Centre.
- Those who attend online events seem younger and more diverse.
- May attract people to come to the Centre in the longer term as their circumstances change or they wish to meet those they have met on line.
- The Dharma is available to a wider audience.

Cons of Online Offerings:

- Online events do not promote human communication and Kalyana Mitrata which is a key aspect of the Triratna movement.
- A gradual reduction of people coming to the MBC will reduce the energy and enthusiasm of the Sangha.
- People attending the sangha will support and encourage local resources

Need to review the resources available and the results of the poll before a proposal can be made.

9. Clarity of Road Map for Sangha Re-Opening

It was decided that:

The shop will open on 13th April.

Other than that, nothing will change until 17th May when the situation will be reviewed, taking into account the latest government guidelines. Additionally, at this time office staff may be able to come back to the Centre to work

The Mitra Convener handover event in the shrine room will be the only event in shrine room before 17th May. There will be four people socially distanced.

Next Trustee Meeting – Wednesday, 28th April 2021 - 1830-2030