

MBC Trustees Meeting: 20th October 2021

Attendees

Present: Silabodhi (SB – Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Vidyapala (VP – Paul Whitehead), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Aparajita - AJ Gilbert), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis), Prasadu (PS), Mahasraddha (MS – Mark Leech), Aryaraksita (AK – Sundeep Grewal), Mary Tait (MT)

Apologies: Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Lilasuri (LS – Claire Morris)

1. Welcome	Actions
SB welcomed all to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	
VS and LS sent apologies.	
3. Check In	
All present checked in.	
4. Spiritual Welfare of MBC Sangha and Centre Team	
<p>Discussion on what should be covered in this item, how often it should be discussed and the best way to provide information.</p> <p>It was suggested that this item should focus on the relationship between the Trustees, the Centre Team and the Sangha. For example;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How kalyana mitrata is working in the sangha. Are teachers offering friendship and support to the class as well as knowledge? • What is inspiring about the Sangha? • Whether the Team is working efficiently and whether they need help and support. • Whether spiritual and operational conditions allow the Team to fulfil their role to their own satisfaction. • Whether the team is able to progress in their spiritual life and whether anything is getting in the way of their own wellbeing. <p>How it might work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompts on the agenda • Item on agenda every few months/quarterly. • Written report every few months. By whom? Rotation? • Possibility of a more bottom-up approach was suggested. Trustees would have to decide what they want to know. <p>What is inspiring now? More women are stepping up to take responsibility There is a surge of new women in their 20's and 30's. It is believed this was fuelled by the young women specific retreats at Adhithana. Newly ordained Dharmacharinis are bringing a new energy as a result of strong friendships and encouragement to take on responsibilities. There will be a younger persons retreat in January.</p>	

<p>Foundation courses are lively. Older members are attending through zoom and younger ones attending in person. The Men's retreat is fully booked and the younger men are taking responsibility for running events.</p> <p>5. Approval of the Minutes of 4th August 2021</p>	
<p>a. The minutes were approved as a true copy b. Matters Arising</p> <p>Ongoing Actions Visioning Exercise A report was distributed. To be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.</p> <p>Gender Inclusivity: Various conversations are taking place which will be brought together from September onwards.</p> <p>Buddhist Centre Basement Amalasiddhi is no longer available to open a cafe in Manchester. See under item 8.</p> <p>6. Request to Launch Shantigarbha climate and Eco Emergency Book</p>	<p>Silabodhi</p> <p>Dharmakarunya/ Lilasuri November/December</p>
<p>It was agreed that the MBC would host this.</p> <p>7. MBC's engagement with topic of Violence Against Women</p>	
<p>The question was raised as to whether the Trustees needed to be aware of any channels of communication, such as WhatsApp, set up by Sangha members to discuss issues such as the death of Sarah Everard and its implication for women in general. Concern was expressed that some Trustees were unaware that this discussion existed, and as to whether contributions might be construed as representing the views of the MBC.</p> <p>It was explained that the aim would be to encourage dialogue around the issues rather than make statements. Many women have been affected by this particular event and may need support.</p> <p>It was decided that this should be on the agenda for the next meeting as it is important in relation to many significant issues being discussed at the moment and in future: we need to be comfortable hearing and talking about these issues in the Sangha and be able to decide what support we can offer</p> <p>8. Café Report</p>	<p>Silabodhi</p>

<p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use leasing company to find external business with ethical match to the MBC. If no success, broaden out to other businesses. Possibly offer a one-year contract to allow rental income restart asap. • Write a piece in Shabda advertising the opportunity. • Respond positively to an interested party who is an ethical match for us. <p>It was decided: that discussions should continue with the interested party and other live expressions of interest.</p> <p>A piece should be written for Shabda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9. Age of MBC Attendees</p>	<p>Silabodhi</p> <p>Aparajita</p>
<p>Young people (15-17) can attend appropriate events with an adult.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.Rejoicing in Mahasraddha</p>	<p>NB. Subsequent discussions with Safeguarding officer - altered to 16-17 years, with guardian's permission.</p>
<p>Mahasraddha resigned as a Trustee and as Treasurer (already actioned) to the Meeting. Much gratitude was expressed for his many positive qualities of which he has given so generously in support of the Centre and all who knew him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.Date of Next Meeting</p>	
<p>Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.00 p.m. at Manchester Buddhist Centre in person</p>	