

# **MBC Trustees Meeting: 19th January 2022**

## **Attendees**

**Present:** Vidyapala, (VP – Paul Whitehead – Chair, Silabodhi (SB – Chris Effendowicz),), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis), Prasadu, Aryaraksita (AK – Sundeep Grewal): Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Lilasuri (LS – Claire Morris), Aparajita – (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd), Buddhasamagama – (BS Michael Procter), Mary Tait (MT)

### **1. Welcome**

VP welcomed all to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

None.

### **3. Spiritual Welfare of MBC Sangha and Centre Team**

#### **Centre Team**

There is a harmonious atmosphere in the Centre Team, two members of which, Tom Connolly and Kevin Statham, have been invited for ordination. Tom Llewellyn has also been invited for ordination.

Courses are going well and are as full as Covid rules allow.

There are many volunteers helping out at the moment.

#### **Men's Sangha**

Six of the sangha will potentially become mitras.

Two men's study groups are into their second year.

VP and VS are working on a new drop-in study group.

VS and a group of mitras are working on a Buddhist practice session which would be like a Training for Ordination group for men who have not yet asked for ordination.

#### **Women's Sangha**

Consideration is being given to how individuals can be enthused and inspired by connection to the wider Sangha. This might be through study leaders or by identifying areas to which order members would be particularly interested in bringing their energy for example, festivals. It is planned to meet with study leaders at least twice a year.

Appreciation was expressed for the latest newsletter and the contribution of order members in creating connections within the Sangha.

The value of training done at Adhithana on how to run a study group was commended. Taravandana is to do a session sharing inspiration from Vessantara on 31<sup>st</sup> January on study leading.

Suggestions as to what should be covered in this section with regard to the team:

- What do people who give a lot to the Centre need to sustain themselves?
- Space to share more fully what is going on in the Centre
- More time for this section

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

- a. The minutes were approved as a true copy

b. Matters Arising

Actions completed

**Gender Diversity**

Clarification was sought on the way forward on this item. The question was around the timing of the diversity awareness event and establishing the views of the Sangha.

It was decided that Shraddhasiddhi should be invited to do the awareness event in the Spring.

**Action: Silabodhi**

Views of the Sangha to be sought in the meantime.

**Action: Dharmakarunya/Lilasuri**

**5. Budget for 2022 Analysis**

This is a conservative, realistic budget.

- Standing orders have held up
- The communities are nearly full
- The new tenant in the basement will start shortly
- One Tech is steady
- Body wise is still at three quarters rent until their business picks up.
- The bookshop revenue is estimated at 50% below that of 2017/18/19.
- Numbers are still limited to 22/23 in the Lotus Hall and 16 in the Vajra Hall
- We are successfully increasing the numbers of young people, but they tend to pay less for courses.
- The reserves represent three months running costs and are lower because staff costs have been reduced to around £23,000. This makes the minimum requirement £69,000.

The positives for the future are that conditions will settle, the mortgages will be repaid, fundraising can recommence.

A question was asked as to whether the amount for fund raising referred to specific events.

The events currently being organised are: the Three Peaks Challenge, Skills Auction and Kula Crafts. The Dana Kula may identify others.

A request was made to earmark £1000 from the contingency budget specifically for involving young people.

A question was asked as to whether the fund-raising drive this year should be in the budget.

It was suggested that Team Based Right Livelihood be an agenda item in the future.

A request was made for longer term financial planning.

A three-to-five-year plan with rolling reviews was suggested.

It was decided that the budget would be reviewed every three months. The next review would be April

**Action: Silabodhi**

The vision statement would inform the long-term budget and may be on the agenda for next month.

Appreciation was expressed for the work that had gone into the Budget and the clarity of the information provided.

### **6.Candidates for Future President of the MBC**

The time scale would be within two years, but an appointment would be preferable as soon as possible.

Question is not just who we would like, but also who would be available to take up the post.

The role of the President:

- Provide stability in change from one Chair to another.
- Visit the Centre for a maximum of two weeks
- Have distance from the Centre in order to provide objective checks and balances.
- Act as an arbitrator where necessary.
- Provide spiritual inspiration.
- Be involved in longer term vision

Person Specification:

- Has been ordained for 15 years
- Has not been a previous Chair of the MBC.

Several names were put forward and it was decided that an approach made to Subadhassi be followed up.

**Action: Silabodhi**

### **7.ECA update Report**

A report is planned for publication soon

A suggestion was made that Silabodhi should do a talk on 'The Chair as Practice'.

### **8.Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7,00p.m. at 73, Singleton Road, Salford, M7 4LX