

# MBC Trustees Meeting: 20th April 2022

## Attendees

**Present:** – Silabodhi (SB – Chris Effendowicz, - Chair, Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis), Aparajita – (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Vidyapala (VP) Prasadu (PS), Lilasuri (LS - Claire Morris), Buddhasamagama (BS)

**Apologies:** Aryaraksita (AK – Sundeep Grewal): Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Dharmakarunya (DK – Ursula Tidd) and Mary Tait (MT)

- **Welcome**

SB welcomed all to the meeting

- **Apologies**

AK, VS, DK, MT

- **Spiritual Welfare of MBC Sangha and Centre Team**

To be reported next month

- **Approval of the Minutes of 16th March 2022**

The minutes were approved as a true copy

## 1. 2022 1st Quarter Financial Report

BS took the trustees through the financial report for 2022, paying particular attention to projected increases in energy prices - a fivefold increase. Trustees agreed that some of this increase should be passed on to the other businesses in the building and the community through their rental charges. In the meantime, Lee from OneTek is looking to see whether he can find a cheaper tariff for the Centre to move on to.

### **Action: SB**

SB and BS to work out what the extra charge should be for each business and the community, and begin those discussions

Trustees discussed the fact that bookshop takings were low, although this is partially explained by its reduced opening hours. Takings are 50% lower than they were in 2017/18/19. A discussion was had about whether the shop should be open more. SB felt that this didn't make sense, as it would mean increasing Kevin's hours and also putting considerable strain on the Centre team to find volunteers to be on reception. All trustees felt that a future discussion about how often the Centre was open, and the potential effect on the profitability of the bookshop, should be discussed at a future meeting

### **Action: SB**

To add a review of the opening hours of the Centre to a future agenda at trustees.

### **Action: BS**

To do a more detailed review of the bookshop's profitability over the last couple of years to help inform this discussion.

Increasing income was discussed. There is increased interest in the school visits service: this could perhaps be marketed more. The Centre will need to review the rental charges of soul kitchen in light of energy prices increase. It was felt that the rooms for the hire in the Centre could also be advertised more.

## **2 . Covid 19 precautions**

Trustees agreed that it would now be appropriate to remove any of the remaining Covid 19 precautions including those that relate to social distancing

### **Action: SB**

To communicate to the Centre Team that all restrictions can now be removed

## **3. President invitations report**

Five potential presidents have said 'no". Vajradarsini was suggested as an option.

### **Action: SB**

To approach Vajradarshini to discuss

### **Action: AJ**

To send Silabodhi a list of the all current presidents to see whether there is someone from the exisiting pool who could be asked.

## **4. Consider reducing trustees' meetings to 6 a year and redefine purpose**

All Trustees agreed that they would be happy to now have trustee meetings every 2 months.

## **5. Chose extra date to review Arthavadin/Prasadu future vision analysis**

The attendees discussed whether there was any benefit in looking at this analysis now so much time had elapsed. PS suggested that it was possibly not useful to look at this now, as a lot had changed at the Centre. The other Trustees agreed with this.

There was then a discussion about whether we needed a more long term financial projection for the Centre, with a review to re-accessing the building's viability. **It was felt, however, that things were still changing rapidly around the Centre, and, therefore, this appraisal should be postponed until Spring 2023.**

## **6. MBC help for Manchester Ukrainians.**

SK informed the Trustees that she was currently involved in some work to help Ukrainians arriving in Manchester. Asked whether the Centre could be used for meetings. All the Trustees thought this was an excellent idea and were happy for this to take place.

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

Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 7.00pm at Manchester Buddhist Centre