

MBC Trustees Meeting: 15th November 2023

Present:, Aparajita (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Upekshapriya (UP - Jeff Cole), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis) - Chair, Lilasuri (LS - Claire Morris), Aryarakshita (AR) – Sundeep Grewal, Prasiddhi (PS), Mary Tait.

Apologies: Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz)

1. Check In

All those present checked in.

2. (a) Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

(b) Matters Arising

Actions from Last meeting

All actions relating to the Budget Review complete.

The Trustees are happy that the rates position in the basement remains unchanged until more information on the future has been obtained.

LS reported on a meeting with Sanghadara. AK is meeting with him next week.

- He is happy to do an in-depth business case, no matter what the decision is regarding the future of the MBC.
- It is possible that a business could operate for a year even if the decision was to move.
- He is clear that the Trustees would be open to a more concrete proposal.
- Consider running the proposal past Martin Hamer for advice.
- Sanghadara is thinking about a possible relationship with Herbivore.
- Need clarity of relationship of Hinterland to the Centre

AK to ask Sanghadara what he would like from the Trustees to help with the business plan

Action: AR

Dayanandi and Taravandana are assisting with the process for the election of a new Chair

Actions from Previous Meetings

Semi dana economy.

It was agreed to return to this in June.

Admitting Ex Offenders

This is being considered nationally and we will await the outcome of these discussions. If any decisions need to be made in the meantime VS will consult SB who is privy to the national discussions.

Ongoing Actions

Discussions on gender diverse groups.

Action: AR

How to engage the Manchester membership, both generally and as regards the AGM.

Action: VS/AR

Process for the Election of a new Chair

The team involved are: Daynandi, Taravandana, Silabodhi, Upekshapriya and Lilasuri.

It was decided that process should be decided by the recruitment team and be presented at a Trustee meeting when it has been finalised.

Decision

The Succession Kula will produce a person spec and job description with input from the Trustees.

Questions raised:

Will the decision on the appointment of the Chair be made by consensus? To be decided at a future meeting.

Should the Chair be appointed before or after the project decision is made?

Recruitment team to be asked for an estimated timeline for the recruitment process.

Action: Trustees

Project Update

Waiting for:

- Receipt of information from GBRM (the partner Land Aid has found for us). They are:
 - Surveying how the building is used.
 - How it can be changed to meet our requirements if we stayed
 - The costs of doing this
 - Due to report in January.
- Viryanaga's fund raising strategy and numbers.
- Information from discussions around changing the Chair,
- Communication with Sangha

Consideration needs to be given to the tension between the time taken to make the decision and making it in a timely way.

Some work has been done to link the decision to the vision. What does the vision mean?

Go options will be presented to the Trustees with help from Martin Hamer.

An analysis of the project risks was presented.

Broadly speaking, they were centred around:

- Human resources- will there be enough people who can complete the analysis, deliver the decision? How many will leave the Sangha?
- Our ability find a buyer for or seller of property if this is required.
- Finances

The trustees were asked to identify any risk not included in the risk register that they regarded as important.

Action: All Trustees

Reviewing risks to go on agenda every week, although it may not be necessary to discuss every week,

Action: SK

Gender Diversity

The Gender Diversity Group is meeting next Wednesday. There has been a proposal to have a monthly drop-in meeting, but this needs to be discussed in the group first.

Action: AR/UP

Manchester Buddhist Centre Constitution

The current version is being reviewed alongside the Triratna recommended template.

Action: AR December Meeting

New Trustees to be an item on next month's agenda.

Action: SK

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 29th November 2023 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. in the Library, Manchester Buddhist Centre or on zoom.