

MBC Trustees Meeting: 29th November 2023

Present:, Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Upekshapriya (UP - Jeff Cole), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis) - Chair, Aryarakshita (AR– Sundeep Grewal), Mary Tait.

Apologies: Aparajita (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Lilasuri (LS - Claire Morris),

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

Planned meeting with AR and Sanghadara cancelled. The business plan is understood to be finished and Sanghadara would like to attend the next Trustee meeting. AR to meet with SD to get a sense of the proposal.

Action: AR

Actions Outstanding

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.

Spiritual Welfare of Team

Sthirajyoti is leaving at the end of December. Candradipa is gradually increasing his hours as his health allows but is not as yet able to undertake the co-ordination role in the team. The best way to support the team was discussed and who is holding their spiritual welfare. UP kindly offered to meet with the team and offer any support spiritual or technical they may need.

Action: UP

Courses are under discussion.

Contact Prahsiddhi regarding any concerns around resources in the Project team.

Action: SK

Project Update

- SB has had discussions with GBRM and has responded to some questions they have asked. They have also asked for a vision statement. Still on course to get back to us in January.
- Meeting with Martin Hamer next week.
- Advice to be sought from Ajjavin who has expertise as a property developer.

Action: Project Team

It was decided that Trustees should be present at conversations with the Sangha concerning the decision on the Project to get a sense of the response.

Decision

Gender Diversity Dharma Group

The following was agreed at the last meeting:

- The group is open to anybody who identifies as gender diverse.
- Meetings will be monthly on Wednesdays.
- There will be a Whatsapp group for those who want to be involved.

- There will be online access.
- The group will not include allies.

Going forward:

The gender diverse blurbs are not coming through on the website.

Confirmation of further meetings to be sent to the group.

Actions: AR

A request to invite members from other Centres is to be discussed.

Conversation to be had around whether the group might evolve into a mitra study group.

Engagement of Manchester Membership

Proposals are:

- Regional order convenor's meeting.
- Email invitation to Presidential handover.

Action: VS/AR

- Order days

Manchester Buddhist Centre Constitution

The consultant is not being responsive. AR kindly offered to do the work needed.

Action AR

New Chair Process

The succession Kula in liaison with the Trustees is working on the process for the appointment of a new Chair.

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|--|----------|--------------|
| • Job and person specification ready | Dec/Jan. | |
| • Review | Dec/Jan | Dayanandi/UP |
| • Advertisement Shabda/ Buddhist Centre Jobs | Feb | |
| • Applications | | |
| • Interview | | |
| • Presentation to Order | | |
| • Wider Order consulted. | | |
| • Meet with MBC Trustees | | |
| • Appointment | | |

No deadline for nominations has been agreed as yet.

People who wish to apply should discuss it with their Chapters.

Order members can put forward nominees with the consent of the person nominated.

Applications

Interest in the post has been expressed by two people. It was decided that conversations should be had with both around the possibility of, at this stage, becoming an Associate or a Trustee.

Trustees not present to be consulted.

Action: SB

Feedback given to interested parties.

Action: VS

Induction

It was decided that the successful candidate should have a Trustee induction and that all Trustees could benefit from this.

Decision making document.

Action: AR

LS and AP provide input.

A question was raised as to whether there was any ECA information on 'What is a Chair'

Action: SB

Agenda item for the future on the composition of the Trustee Group.

Action: SK

Timing of Appointment

It was decided that, if an appointment was made from outside the MBC and, given the current situation, the new Chair should have two months to work alongside the current Chair. The decision on the new Chair would need to be made by the beginning of April.

Financial support would be available for this.

Dates for Future Meetings Next Year

The day and time for meetings in the New Year was provisionally agreed as a.m. on Tuesdays every two weeks. Trustees not present to give their input.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20th December 2023 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. in the Library, Manchester Buddhist Centre or on zoom