

## MBC Trustees Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Present:**, Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Lilasuri (LS - Claire Morris), Upekshapriya (UP - Jeff Cole), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis), Sanghadhara (SD - ), Lokeshvara, Mary Tait.

**Apologies:** Aparajita (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Aryarakshita (AR– Sundeep Grewal)

### **Welcome**

A warm welcome was extended to Lokeshvara, the Centre's new President and Sanghadhara, a newly appointed Trustee.

### **Check In**

All those present checked in.

### **Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Centre Team**

The events to be held on Saturdays will be an opportunity for the broader Sangha to connect and deepen their practice.

### **Centre Team**

Sthirajyoti is leaving on 21<sup>st</sup> December. He has lived in a community for the whole of his Order life until recently and has worked for the Order for more than 36 years. He has held a diverse role which has been well executed. His role will be distributed among other members of the team. The Centre is looking for a volunteer to be responsible for Health and Safety. One possibility is to have a member of the Sangha supported by an Order Member. A very successful meeting looking at task responsibilities has been held. A question was raised as to whether a team co-ordinator is required as ill health has been a problem but otherwise, the team is working well. UP is providing support on an ad hoc basis.

It was decided that Anandamoksa should be included in the team meetings.

### **Decision**

The timing of the event Teachers of Enlightenment was discussed in relation to other events happening at the weekend. The possibility of having other groups on Sunday was raised.

Review possibility of managing dates better. UP to be invited to the meeting

**Action: SB**

### **Ongoing Actions**

Decision making document. LS and AP to provide input.

**Action: AR**

### **Manchester Buddhist Centre Constitution**

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

**Action AR**

### **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.

### **Engagement of Manchester Membership**

Proposal are:

- Order days

**Action: AR**

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

**Action: SK**

## 1. (a) Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## (b) Matters Arising

The balance of men and women Trustees on the Board needs to be held in mind for future Trustee appointments. There is no plan currently to increase the number of Trustees.

It was decided that new Trustees, including Sanghadara, should have an induction and that all Trustees could benefit from this.

## Project Updates

### Recruitment Process for New Chair

Members of the Succession Kula:

Dayanandi, Taravandana, Silabodhi. Lilasuri has now stepped down.

### Where is the Process up to?

Job description, person specification plus desirable/essential skills, knowledge and attitudes have been completed. Application form needs redesigning.

### Timetable

By 2<sup>nd</sup> January documents sent to local order members  
Discussion with chapters on how to nominate candidates.

Advertised:

1/2<sup>nd</sup> January Triratna jobs/buddhist centre.com

22<sup>nd</sup> January Chapters to nominate.

February Shabda

### MBC Project

Meeting held with Martin Hamer (property developer). He is looking for buildings which could accommodate the Buddhist Centre, Gosinga and Bodywise. A minimum of 4,000 square feet would be required

- Two buildings have been proposed which are being reviewed.
- Possible synergy of needs between MBC and the Co-op (NOMA) but might not be prepared to sell.
- Buildings mostly leasehold around 250 years.
- Might to look at a wider band around Manchester city centre.

Ajjavin is coming in January to give an opinion.

OneTec are leaving to go to a place in Ashton, Wants to leave at the end of January but could possibly be the end of February. This coincides with the provision in the budget.

Possibility for the vacant room is a Gosinga extension. Talk to community about proposal.

**Action: SD**

Look at implications for health and safety, insurance, rates, council tax etc.

**Action: Buddhasamagama, Paranayaka**

### Time for Sanghadhara

Was attracted to stay in Manchester because of the potential opportunity to become involved in Triratna projects and become more dharmically engaged. Becoming a Trustee offered the opportunity to not only become more involved and committed to team based right livelihood but also to have more Centre commitment and involvement in communication with the team.

### Time for Lokeshvara

Felt that he could be a resource for the Centre for which he has both a spiritual and organisational responsibility. There are the legal and financial needs as well as the spiritual needs of a community and the President can hold a balance between these. He can be a reminder of the spiritual side of the ethics of gathering a community, alongside the responsibilities that come with being a Trustee. He is interested in the spiritual vision that has built communities. The MBC was built through a spiritual vision. Why did this and other

spiritual visions happen, for example why were Stonehenge and other spiritual buildings get built? He hopes to come again sooner rather than later.

**Project Presentation**

Prasiddhi gave a presentation on the journey and current status of the MBC project.  
Report on options to be linked to the vision.

**Action: VS**

**Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. in the Library, Manchester Buddhist Centre or on zoom.

Room to be booked for 13<sup>th</sup> February and every two weeks after this.

**Action: SB**