

# MBC Trustees Meeting: 23rd January 2024

**Present:**, Silabodhi (SB - Chris Effendowicz) - Chair, Lilasuri (LS - Claire Morris), Upekshapriya (UP - Jeff Cole), Suryaka (SK – Helen Ellis), Aparajita (AJ - Ajay Gilbert), Vishangka (VS – Keith Green), Mary Tait.

**Apologies:** Sanghadhara (SD - ), Aryarakshita (AR– Sundeep Grewal)

## 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A request had been made that the meeting should be recorded. It was decided with a majority vote that the meeting should not be recorded.

## 2. Check In

All those present checked in.

## 3. Spiritual Welfare of Sangha and Centre Team

Sthirajyoti has now left and his responsibilities divided between the remaining team members. Health and Safety has been taken over by Anandamoksa and Helen Richardson who are very enthusiastic and pulling together to update all Health and Safety requirements. Paranayaka has taken on Fire H & S and training. Buddhasamagama is in charge of Gift Aid, Louise CRM and Candradipa, with volunteers, the technical aspects.

There are mitra ceremonies in February and many thanks go to Taravandana for the workshop she has provided on leading study groups. Teachers of Enlightenment event is going well. It is planned to have a short break and then start again in the lead up to Buddha Day.

## Ongoing Actions

Decision making document. LS and AP to provide input.

**Action: AR**

## Manchester Buddhist Centre Constitution

Little progress has been made, so 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:

- Order days

**Action: AR**

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

**Action: SK**

## 4(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.

## 5. Recruitment Process for New Chair

Lilasuri has withdrawn from the Succession Kula

Actions completed:

- Email sent to Shabda
- Application form updated and job description and person spec completed.

- Meet the candidates Order meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Save the date email sent to Order members

Next Actions:

- Shabda notice of vacancy 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- Results of interviews to be scored and recorded and presented to all trustees.

The proposed Interview panel is Suryaka, Taravandana, Lilasuri, Vishanga.

The composition of the interview panel was discussed:

- In the past, it has always been composed only of Trustees.
- The proposed date for interviews is 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023. There was a proposal that the two mitra convenors and one other trustee should form the panel with Taravandana present for her expertise. All the trustees present and agreed upon at the meeting were willing to attend and free on that date.

Candidate presentations to the Order were discussed. The event will be hybrid:

- It was agreed that the candidates should not be in the room for each other's presentations.
- The succession Kula to be asked how the OM's responses to the presentation will be gathered.
- The question was asked as to who is hosting the meeting?

The trustees agreed that they will meet on 12<sup>th</sup> March to make the final decision, so feedback from the presentations would be needed by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Trustee proposals to be fed back to the Succession Kula.

**Action: UP**

## 6. Lokeshvara Points

Attendance: LK will attend the next meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February and subsequent ones by zoom if there are to be project discussions. Terms and conditions were discussed.

## 7. Conversion of OneTek Office

On the advice taken the need to obtain 'change of use' permission would take quite a long time, and be quite costly. Therefore, it was agreed that, given the decision to either leave the building or totally renovate it, this option was dismissed.

Trustees were asked to consider other ideas for its use.

**Action: Trustees**

## 8. Project Update

Feedback was given from advisors:

Prasiddhi is to write a report based on the feedback from Ajjavin, the report to be reviewed by Ajjavin and then presented to the Trustees. The selling price of the building may seem relatively low but takes in to account the amount the buyer would have to then invest in the building.

Viryanaga is to do a report on what is required for raising over a £1 million to stay, and up to £500,000 if we move.

Need to ask: How much the report will cost.

**Action: Silabodhi**

## MBC Café

Stephen Jeffreys attended in SD's absence. The Trustees asked Stephen about the viability of the business and the risks involved given the uncertainty of the MBC's position.

The Trustees decided that the café can be given permission to go ahead based on an agreement which clarifies the understanding of the risks for both parties.

Suryaka to write the document, so the decision can be communicated as quickly as possible.

**Action: SK**

## Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. in the Library, Manchester Buddhist Centre or on zoom