

**MINUTES of the AGM**  
**RADLETT REFORM SYNAGOGUE BOARD**  
Held on  
**THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
At  
**Radlett Reform Synagogue**



**Present:**           **Exec:** Irene Blaston (Chair, IB), Nick Levy (NL, Vice Chair), Simon Blum (Treasurer, SB), Lisa Leighton (Hon Sec, LL), Susan Zonneveld (Head of Ritual, SZ)

**Board Members:** Samantha Davies (SD), Carol Green (CG), David Grossman (DG), Jeremy Kaye (JK), Nigel Kidd (NK), Rachael Levy (RL), Phil Lyons (PL), David Martin (DM), James Taylor (JT), Laurence Turner (LT)

**Attendees:** Jack Alvarez, Laurence Blaston, Brian Bloom, Simone Bloom, Simon Gordon, Spencer Grant, Maureen Grossman, Richard Kempner, Sharonne Krausz, Jean Landau, Robert Landau, Madeleine Turner, Simon Unger

**Apologies:** Debbie Behrens, Gill Burn, Elizabeth Crossick, Rabbi Paul Freedman, Bernadette Hillman, Judy and Barry Hyman (President), Paul and Anya Kirby, Roger Kutchinsky, Sarah and Laurie Lichman

**In Attendance:** Rabbi Celia Surget (CS), Pippa Suchet (PS)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Sequential numbering continues from the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## **11 Welcome and Apologies**

11.1 Hon Sec, Lisa Leighton opened the meeting welcoming all guests and noting apologies received (see above).

## **12 Approval of Minutes**

12.1 The Minutes of the last AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were agreed and duly signed.

## **13 Chair's Report**

13.1 The Chair read her report; it was well-received.

13.2 In answer to a question about the Synagogue's plans to increase the number of satellite services, the meeting was updated on the recent very successful service held in Hemel Hempstead and that the Board are currently assessing the demographics of our membership and subject to that assessment and staffing capabilities, this scheme will continue.

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**14 Treasurer's Report – Approval of Accounts and the Election of Auditor**

- 14.1 The Treasurer gave a PowerPoint presentation. He described the year as having enjoyed a decent financial performance and accounts show a trading surplus of £14k. Cash position is healthier than last year, bolstered by donations from the fundraising campaign for a third member of the clergy team. Finances remain reasonably robust, but as ever, the Synagogue will face challenges.
- 14.2 Deficit unrestricted fund of £6,661. Overall accounts show a surplus of £33,241 due to using reserves from previous years (as planned) and the benefit of Rabbi Celia's £7k marathon contribution.
- 14.3 Subscription income was up by 5.2%.
- 14.4 Total income decreased by approx. £6k. Total expenditure increased by £39,157
- 14.5 High Holy Day Appeal donations amounted to £20,772 (£16,096 in 2016), with Macmillan Cancer appeal raising £4,984, World Jewish Relief: £4,960, IRAC: £4,883 and the Synagogue: £5,945. All donations have been presented to recipients. The Radlett Reform funds are being held for the kitchen refurbishment project that is scheduled for August 2018.
- 14.6 Expenditure highlights are fees to Reform Judaism, Cheder and Bar/Bat mitzvah, Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS), repairs and maintenance, security and the significant cost of the High Holy Days.
- 14.7 The Finance Committee were thanked for their help over the past year, as was ex-staff member Man-Yee who had been very helpful in handing-over a complex job to new Accounts Administrator Maithili Deshpande, who is settling in to the role.
- 14.8 Members voted unanimously to accept the accounts.
- 14.9 Members voted unanimously to accept the election of auditors.

**15 Rabbinic Team's Report**

- 15.1 Rabbi Celia read a joint Rabbinic Report.
- 15.2 She explained how the team are looking to find ways to better to support, care and pre-empt the challenges faced by both older members and younger families. She thanked Carol Green for all her work and assistance in making Cheder a happy place with high attendance. She also thanked Laurence Turner for his work on the BMM Programme. She acknowledged that there is always room for improvement and Informal Education is an area under review.

**16 Thank You to Our Wardens**

- 16.1 The entire Warden's Team were thanked for their diligence and dedicated work.

**17 Acceptance and Thanks for the Clubs and Societies Reports**

- 17.1 Thanks were given to all those who run clubs and committees and who submitted reports to the AGM (reports are available on the Radlett Reform website: [www.radlettreform.org.uk](http://www.radlettreform.org.uk))

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**18 Election of Executive and Board**

- 18.1 Lisa Leighton (Hon Sec), Susan Zonneveld (Head of Ritual) and Elizabeth Crossick (Ex-officio) are all standing down from the Board and Jack Alvarez stood down as Head Warden, but will remain a member of the Warden's Team.
- 18.2 Nominations for election to the Board have been received in favour of Spencer Grant, Sharonne Krausz and Simon Unger. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of their election to the Synagogue Board.
- 18.3 The Chair took over the running of the meeting at this point.

**19 Election of Deputies for the 2018–2021 Triennial Session of the Board of Deputies (BoD)**

- 19.1 Radlett Reform representative to the Board of Deputies, Lana Young is standing down.
- 19.2 A nomination for election to the BoD was received for Richard Burn.
- 19.3 Bernadette Hillman and Roger Kutchinsky both stood for re-election.
- 19.4 The meeting voted unanimously in favour of all three appointments and Lana was thanked for her work.
- 19.5 The Chair was asked to consider extending the number of BoD representatives to the maximum quota of four. She agree to consider this request along with the proposal that representatives should present their BoD meeting attendance statistics to future AGM meetings.

**20 Vote of Thanks**

- 20.1 Susan Zonneveld, Lisa Leighton and Jack Alvarez were all warmly thanked for their time and work for the Synagogue and each was presented with a thank you gift from the synagogue by the Chair.

**21 Any Other Business**

- 21.1 None

The meeting ended at 20.11