WESTMINSTER SYNAGOGUE

The 65th Annual General Meeting to be held at Kent House on 8th June 2023 at 6.35 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Opening Prayer**
3. **Apologies**
4. **President's Address to the Meeting**
5. **Reflections from the past year –** Community Members
6. **Chairman of the Executive's Address to the Meeting**
7. **Approval of the Minutes of the 64th AGM, held on 25th May, 2022**
8. **To receive the Report of the Treasurers, and if approved, to adopt the Accounts of the Synagogue for the year ended 31st December 2022**
9. **To adopt the resolution** proposed by Mr Edward Glover, seconded by Mr Robert Sandler **that Nyman Libson Paul be re-appointed Auditors to the Synagogue**
10. **To adopt the proposed changes to the Laws of Westminster Synagogue, Appendix 1**
11. **Minister's Address to the Meeting**
12. **To elect as a Minister of the Congregation, as recommended by the Rabbinic Selection Committee:-**

    Student Rabbi Kamila Kopřivová

13. **To confirm the appointment by Council as Trustees for a period of two years:-**

Mr Robert Sandler as Vice Chair	Nominated by Dudi Appleton; Paula Weiner
Mr David Connick as Trustee	Nominated by Philippa Bernard; Daniel Low
Mr Jeremy Solnick as Trustee	Nominated by Claudia Golden; Claire Connick

14. **To elect as Vice-President for a period of five years:-**

Mr Miles Laddie	Nominated by Ellen Miller; Philippa Bernard
Mrs Valery Rees	Nominated by Debra Hauer; David Connick

15. **To elect as Chair of Council for a period of two years:-**

Mr Michele Rabà	Nominated by Robert Sandler; Chris Rees

16. To elect Members of Council for a period of three years:-

Mrs Angela Charatan	Nominated by Miles Laddie; Claire Connick
Miss Jessie Kolvin	Nominated by Robert Sandler; Ellen Miller
Mrs Diana Clark	Nominated by Debra Hauer; Dudi Appleton
Dr Lukas Mach	Nominated by Chris Rees; Valery Rees
Ms Hannah Hauer-King	Nominated by Miles Laddie; Dudi Appleton
Ms Abigail James	Nominated by Melissa Chavin; Robert Sandler

17. To elect Wardens for one year:-

To be announced

18. To elect as a Westminster Synagogue Deputy to the Board of Deputies for a period of one year:-

Mrs Jane Power

19. Thanks to outgoing lay leaders

20. Any other business

21. Closing words from Mr Robert Sandler

Appendix 1 – proposed changes to the Laws of Westminster Synagogue

Law 11

Currently Reads: General meetings of the members shall be summoned by the Council or in cases of emergency when an urgent matter is in hand and no Council meeting is due within the next 14 days by the Executive. Special general meetings shall be summoned upon a requisition signed by not less than six members of the Executive or not less than twenty members of the congregation who shall in such requisition state the object for which such meeting is to be convened; and every such meeting shall be held within thirty-five days from the receipt of such requisition. At least twenty-one clear days' written notice of the day appointed for the annual general meeting shall be given and, except in cases of emergency, for other general meetings.

Proposed Change: General meetings of the members shall be summoned by the Council or in cases of emergency when an urgent matter is in hand and no Council meeting is due within the next 14 days by the Executive. Special general meetings shall be summoned upon a requisition signed by not less than six members of the Executive **or not less than 10 members of Council** or not less than twenty members of the congregation who shall in such requisition state the object for which such meeting is to be convened; and every such meeting shall be held within thirty-five days from the receipt of such requisition. At least twenty-one clear days' written notice of the day appointed for the Annual General Meeting shall be given and, except in cases of emergency, for other general meetings.

Purpose: This gives the Council the ability to summon a general meeting.

Delete Law 16

Currently Reads: At each annual general meeting Annual General Meeting one third of the elected members of the Council shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election, and the vacancies on the Council shall be filled by election. The members to retire each year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election but as between persons who were elected members on the same day those to retire shall be determined by lot.

Purpose: By inserting three-year terms of office for council members (into law 18), this law becomes redundant.

Law 18

Currently Reads: The Council shall consist of not less than three and no more than twelve members elected as members of the Council ('elected members') together with a President, up to seven Vice-Presidents and the members of the Executive.

Proposed Change: The Council shall consist of not less than three and no more than **fifteen** members elected as members of the Council ('elected members') **who shall be elected by members in General Meeting** together with a President, up to seven Vice-Presidents and the members of the Executive. **Elected members of Council shall hold office for a term of three years and at the end of that term will be eligible for re-election. An elected member shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms but shall again be eligible for election at the next Annual General Meeting after the expiry of the consecutive terms. Elected members of Council at the adoption of this Law will remain in office till the third anniversary of their appointment when they will be subject to re-election.**

Purpose: The community has grown significantly since the Laws were created, with greater numbers of members becoming more involved. There is currently no term of office stated in the Laws for Council members, however it has always been understood to be three years. This makes it official, and limits the term of office for Elected Members to 6 years after which they cannot be elected until a Synagogue year has elapsed from the end of the six year period.

Law 19

Currently Reads: No person shall be eligible for election unless nominated by two other members of the congregation who shall give notice thereof in writing to an Honorary Secretary. Where such members are not members of the Council they must present such nominations to an Honorary Secretary within 3 months after the close of the congregation's financial year.

Proposed Change: No person shall be eligible for election unless nominated by two other members of the congregation who shall give notice thereof in writing to an Honorary Secretary, **not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.**

Purpose: This makes it a more realistic method and timeline of managing nominations.

New Law, to be inserted after law 21
The Chair of Council shall be elected at a General Meeting and shall hold office for two years, being eligible for re-election thereafter.

Purpose: To create the new role 'Chair of Council', noting how they are appointed and how long they hold office.

Law 25
Currently reads: Meetings of the Council shall be summoned by the President at intervals throughout the year. The President, whom failing a Vice-President if present or otherwise a member of the Executive in either such case as agreed by the meeting, shall take the chair.

Proposed change: Meetings of the Council shall be summoned by the **Chair of Council** at intervals throughout the year. **The Chair of Council, whom failing a Vice-President or an Elected Member of Council, as nominated by the Chair of Council, shall take the chair.**

Purpose: In line with the new role of 'Chair of Council'.

Law 29
Currently Reads: Ten members of the Council shall form a quorum provided that no at no time shall the members of the Executive present at a meeting of the Council exercise a number of votes that exceed half of the total members of the Council present.

Proposed Change: Ten members of the Council shall form a quorum provided that at no time shall the members of the Executive present at a meeting of the Council exercise a number of votes that exceed half of the total members of the Council present.

Purpose: removing the typo (the first 'no')

Law 39
Currently Reads: The Executive shall act as the Charity Trustees of the congregation and shall have the general control and management of the congregation's financial affairs and its day to day administration

Proposed Change: The Executive shall act as the Charity Trustees of the congregation and shall have the general control and management of the congregation's financial affairs and its day to day administration, **together with responsibility for strategy.**

Purpose: Clearly stating who is responsible for strategy, in line with the legal responsibilities of charity trustees

Law 63

Currently reads: All office holders, whether nominated, elected or co-opted, shall have the right to resign subject to agreement, not to be unreasonably withheld, in the case of the Executive with the Chairman and in the case of any other office with the President. In the event that the President or the Chairman, as the case may be, is unable to act the other may act. All resignations and vacancies otherwise occurring are to be reported to the next meetings of each of the Council and the Executive.

Proposed change: All office holders, whether nominated, elected or co-opted, shall have the right to resign subject to agreement, not to be unreasonably withheld, in the case of the Executive with the Chairman of the Executive, **in the case of elected members of Council with the Chair of Council,** and in the case of any other office with the President. In the event that the President, Chairman of the Executive or Chair of Council, as the case may be, is unable to act **one of the other two may act.** All resignations and vacancies otherwise occurring are to be reported to the next meetings of each of the Council and the Executive.

Purpose: In line with the new role of 'Chair of Council'.

Law 67

Currently reads: If, at any time during their term of office, the Council shall at a special meeting of the Council deem that any holder of a nominated, elected or co-opted office ("the said office holder") should no longer hold that appointment by virtue of not less than two-thirds of those present voting in favour of the resolution it may appoint some other person to hold office in their stead until the next annual general meeting whereupon it shall be incumbent upon such person to co-operate in any handover formalities. The said office holder may attend the meeting and address it but may not vote.

Proposed change: If, at any time during their term of office, **an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting** shall deem that any holder of a nominated, elected or co-opted office ("the said office holder") should no longer hold that appointment by virtue of not less than two-thirds of those present voting in favour of the resolution it may appoint some other person to hold office in their stead **until the next Annual General or Special General Meeting** whereupon it shall be incumbent upon such person to co-operate in any handover formalities. The Said Office Holder may attend the meeting and address it but may not vote.

Purpose: To change how trustees and Council office holders are removed from position mid-term, from Council to a General Meeting of the members.