

Sukkat Shalom – Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 18th February 2018

Present

Nick Silk (chair), Sue Bard, Jonathan Broadie, Marjory Broadie, Katy Bromberg, Adam Clark, Norman Crane, Wendy Crane, Helen Ford, Joe Goldblatt, Stew Green, Dan Hershon, Ricky Hogg, Maureen MacKinnon, Philip Michaelson, Maurice Naftalin, Gareth Owen, Charles Raab, Gillian Raab, Miriam Vickers, Rebecca Wober.

Apologies

Adam Budd, Nadine Cossette, Rebekah Gronowski, Stefano Giossi, Thelma Henderson, Isobel King, Nancy Lynner, Paul McPhail, Bill Zachs

1 Approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM

Action

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted as a true record. (Proposed by M Naftalin, seconded by G Raab.)

2 Chairman's Report (N Silk)

NS noted that his report had been circulated prior to the meeting. He then highlighted some specific areas:

- Finance – at the last AGM this was highlighted as an area which required focus. Our move to St Marks will result in a saving of some £2,000. NS also noted that membership fees would be covered later
- Fundraising is an area on which we should focus in the coming year. We haven't had any fundraising events for some time and it would be good to re-introduce these
- Social action – while we have done activities such as mitzvah day and helping gardening at Tiphereth, and we have introduced the taxi scheme, it would be good to do more. NS asked for any volunteers who would like to help in this area
- NS stated that he was going to set the precedent of standing as Chair for 3 years. That being the case, we need to start thinking about succession planning now, and it has been suggested that we should appoint a vice-Chair. NS urged anyone interested to speak to him and/or volunteer now
- NS concluded by saying that he believes there are lots of good things we are doing as a community, and our challenge is to

continue to keep doing these things and indeed progress some of the other areas highlighted.

During the discussion after the report, several points were made, including:

- We should consider social action activity with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation
- It would be good if we could do some activity which helps with refugees
- The idea of a vice-Chair and setting the precedent of the Chairmanship for 3 years is a good one as it may encourage others to take the role on in the future
- Several volunteers came forward with ideas for fundraising
- Other areas where we engage in social activity were highlighted

Acceptance of the Chairman's report was proposed by H Ford, seconded by C Raab and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

3 Treasurer's Report (A Clark) & Approval of Accounts

NS noted that AC had recently taken over as Treasurer from P Waddell and that the accounts presented were prepared by PW. AC then presented the accounts to the meeting, and in particular highlighted the notes on the accounts. AC also thanked A Yule and G Raab for their help since he has taken over as Treasurer.

During subsequent discussion the following points were noted:

- AC confirmed that the accounts have been audited
- AC will be submitting Gift Aid claims for 2015/16 and 2016/17 in the forthcoming year, and it is hoped the claim for 2017/18 will also be submitted towards the end of the year
- AC hopes to present the accounts in a slightly different format – his own style – next year
- M Broadie has 'chased up' some £2,000 in membership fees that don't appear in this set of accounts

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report and accounts was proposed by G Raab, seconded by G Owen and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

4 Religious Affairs Report (M Naftalin)

MN presented his report to the meeting, highlighting the following areas:

- Services continue to go well, both those taken by Rabbi Mark and by the lay leaders. As is always the case, it would be good if we could get more people involved in taking services, and MN hopes

to find ways of making it easier for people to help with leading services

- We will be starting to use the draft Liberal Judaism siddur at Shabbat morning services during the coming year
- We will be integrating the choir/singers into the services

The report was accepted unanimously.

5 Cheder Report (D Hershon)

In presenting his report, DH highlighted the following:

- Cheder is going well, with support from various people and groups including Rabbi Mark and LJY (Liberal Judaism Youth)
- There are now some 24 children who attend cheder
- There are two areas where DH is looking for support, pre-school, which G Raab is exploring, and post-Bar/Bat mitzvah

During subsequent discussion, it was suggested that we could think about setting up a Kabbalat Torah group for post-Bar/Bat mitzvah young adults, and also encouraging them to lead Friday night services. It was also noted that we have had some cheder services, where the children attend part of a Shabbat service and do activities for the other part, and it was agreed that it would be good to have more of these.

The report was accepted unanimously.

6 Service Logistics (G Owen)

In summarising his report, GO noted that all is going well and that he has recently written some 'helpers' notes' for those involved with helping.

The report was accepted unanimously.

7 Burials Group Report (R Hogg)

RH presented his report and noted that a link to our recommended undertakers, William Purves, has been put onto the website. He also noted that Purves have reduced their cost by £250 for ELJC members.

The report was accepted unanimously.

8 Membership (G Raab)

G Raab reported that she has taken over the membership database from S Goldwater after 4 years. Thanks were expressed to SG for her work and NS noted that he will write to SG to formally thank her.

NS

The report was unanimously accepted.

9 Interfaith (S Green)

In presenting his report, SG noted that interfaith activities and ELJC's involvement was good. SG did note that his one area of disappointment was the comparative lack of support for the Holocaust Memorial Day event. There then followed some discussion as to whether we could link HMD activity with Social Action. For example, the HMD event usually only involves one school; is there a way we could involve more schools?

The discussion then developed into ways that cheder children could tell their classmates at 'proper/normal' school about Judaism.

After the discussion SG's report was unanimously accepted.

10 Adult Education (N Crane)

NC summarised his report by saying that the format of adult education is the same as it has been for several years, and is demand led. NC himself continues to give Hebrew lessons to those that want it. A question was asked as to whether there is a demand for Hebrew lessons, and NC said that he believes there is.

The report was accepted unanimously.

11 Proposed Subscription Level for 2018

NS opened this topic by noting that last year we had increased the membership fees by £20, and we had said at the time that we would be looking to increase the fees again this year. There had been considerable discussion on this topic at Council, with many different opinions expressed. In the end, Council's proposal to the AGM is that we increase our membership fees by a further £20, to £240/year. Before opening the subject up for discussion, NS noted that, as has always been the case, we don't refuse membership to anyone on the basis of their inability to pay membership fees.

During the discussion that followed, the following points were made / questions asked:

- Some people pay by standing order, and if they already pay £20/month, then an increase in membership fees will not result in any extra income for the community
- It was confirmed that we don't have a family membership
- There is a student membership rate should students wish to join

After discussion, the proposal to increase membership fees to £240/year was unanimously approved.

12 Election of Office Bearers & Council Members for 2018/19

The following were elected unopposed:

Chair – N Silk (proposed by J Broadie , seconded by M Broadie)

Treasurer – A Clark (proposed by G Raab, seconded by M Broadie)

Secretary – G Raab (proposed by M Naftalin, seconded by A Clark)

The following were nominated for Council and, there being enough places available for all nominees, they were all elected:

S Bard, J Broadie, M Broadie, K Bromberg, N Crane, Y Eisenberg, H Ford, D Hershon, R Hogg, R Lerman, M Naftalin, G Owen

13 AOB

R Wober gave a brief update on the 'Jewish Dialogue' project. She noted that any feedback on any aspect of the project could be given to RW herself, or via ELJC.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair