

Sukkat Shalom – Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 26th February 2017

Present

Jonathan Broadie, Marjory Broadie, Katy Bromberg, Adam Budd, Norman Crane, Wendy Crane, Helen Ford, Bruce Golding, Joe Goldblatt, Stew Green, Bob Lerman, Nancy Lynner, Maureen MacKinnon, Philip Michaelson, Maurice Naftalin, Gareth Owen, Charles Raab, Gillian Raab, Anita Shulman, Nick Silk, Miriam Vickers, Phil Wadler, Rebecca Wober.

Apologies

Sue Bard, Ruth Fry, Rebekah Gronowski, Ricky Hogg, Isobel King, Sue Lieberman, Gail Potts, Bill Zachs

N Crane chaired the meeting until N Silk was elected as Chair, at which point Nick took the chair.

1 Approval of Minutes of 2016 AGM

Action

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted as a true record. (Proposed by J Goldblatt, seconded by G Raab.)

2 Chairman's Report (N Crane)

N Crane noted that his report had been circulated prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, the report was unanimously accepted.

3 Treasurer's Report (P Wadler) & Approval of Accounts

P Wadler gave a brief resume of the 2016 accounts. There were no questions, and the report and accounts were unanimously accepted. (Proposed by S Green, seconded by A Budd.)

4 Religious Affairs Report (N Silk)

N Silk gave a brief overview of his report. During subsequent discussion various comments were made:

- By and large services have gone well. Attendance at services is somewhat variable e.g., there were few people who attended the service when the Alyth Reform Youth Choir visited us
- Various ideas are being considered such as a cheder-led service and a meditative service
- All are encouraged to make suggestions for how to encourage service attendance

The report was accepted unanimously, and there was a vote of thanks to Nick for his work on Religious Affairs over the years.

5 Cheder Report (N Crane & D Hershon)

There was general discussion on the report during which the cheder teachers present all gave an update on cheder. There are some 27 children and a good number of teachers, and the summary is that cheder is thriving. All present acknowledged the success of cheder and the report was accepted unanimously.

6 Burial group Report (R Hogg)

Having noted the report issued prior to the meeting, there was no further discussion and the report was accepted unanimously.

7 Communications (Newsletter Team)

The report issued prior to the meeting was noted. During discussion it was highlighted that the team, led by Sue Bard, continues to ensure that Etrog is issued to its high standard every 2 months, but that more help is always welcome. Any members who would like to be involved with producing Etrog should contact Sue.

The report was unanimously accepted.

8 Election of Office Bearers & Council Members for 2017/18

The following were elected unopposed:

Chair – N Silk (proposed by N Crane, seconded by C Raab)
 Treasurer – P Wadler (proposed by S Green, seconded by R Wober)
 Secretary – G Raab (proposed by M Naftalin, seconded by N Crane)

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, H Ford, R Hogg, R Lerman, M Naftalin, G Owen R Wober

After his election, N Silk took the chair and a formal vote of thanks to N Crane was passed for his time as Chair. A small gift was presented to Norman as thanks. Thanks were also given to Wendy for her support during Norman's time as Chair, and to Sue Lieberman who stood down from Council.

9 Subscriptions

N Silk stated that Council were proposing that the subscriptions be raised by 10% to £220 per year. This is the first time in our history that an increase has been proposed, but the finances show that we have been running at a deficit hence why the increase is being proposed. NS also noted that regardless of the increase, it will remain the case that no-one is refused membership because of inability to pay the subscription. A confidential discussion with the Treasurer will always result in a mutually acceptable solution being found.

NS also noted that Council will be reviewing expenditure during the coming year, and that any fundraising events would be warmly welcome.

There was minimal discussion and the motion to increase the subscriptions to £220 per year was put to the meeting. 19 people voted in favour and there was 1 abstention.

10 Discussion on Premises

N Silk opened this topic by referring back to the previous discussion. Accommodation costs are one of our major items of expenditure, and as such a review of our current premises has been undertaken by S Green. This review has looked not just at costs, but other aspects too, such as ease of access, access to public transport, kitchen facilities, ease of booking as well as more personal aspects such as ambience. Having received Stew's report, Council is now considering the next steps, but Nick wanted to have a discussion on premises to ascertain any general feelings.

There then followed general discussion, during which the following points and comments were made:

- The possibility of working with the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation and perhaps sharing space is something we could consider

- The Jewish Dialogue Group is currently looking at the feasibility of building a Cultural Centre, with the option of having space for worship within the Centre. One of the options is that Salisbury Road could become the Cultural Centre. At the moment, discussions are ongoing within the Dialogue Group, where it is clear that the aim is that the proposed Cultural Centre isn't seen as belonging to any community. It was thought that it would be at least 4 years before the Cultural Centre was ready
- It was generally accepted that whatever decision is made on premises, it is for Council to make such a decision

The discussion concluded with agreement that while the establishment of a new Cultural Centre would be a great achievement for the whole of the Edinburgh Jewish community, the timescale is such that we must continue to look at our premises, and associated costs, in the short to medium term.

Following this discussion, the meeting was formally closed.