

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 3pm**

**St Mark's Unitarian Church, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2DP**

Minutes of the last AGM and reports for this AGM were available at the meeting and are also available on our web site:

[Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh - Organisation \(eljc.org\)](http://SukkatShalomEdinburgh-Organisation.eljc.org)

**Present** Nick Silk (Chair), Gillian Raab (minutes), Sue Bard, Annie Gutteridge\*, Jonathan Broadie, Marjorie Broadie, Michael Elam\*, Stefano Giossi, Joe Goldblatt, Rolando Hernandez, Maureen McKinnon, Nancy Lynner, Maurice Naftalin, Charles Raab, Tracy Tyson\*, Miriam Vickers, Rebecca Wober  
(\* denotes not eligible to vote; 14 members present were eligible to vote))

- 1. Apologies for absence** Lisa Barcan, Norman Crane, Wendy Crane, Helen Ford, Loraine Hershon, Barrie Levine, Kyla Reid
- 2. Minutes of the last AGM** of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 were approved (Proposed by SG seconded JB).
- 3. Minutes of the EGM** of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 were approved (Proposed SB seconded GR).

**4. Co-chairs report**

GR spoke to the report. She highlighted our appreciation of all the work Rabbi Mark Solomon does for the congregation, the challenges that coming out of lockdown poses as well as the Community's generosity in supporting the Kol Nidre Appeal.

The report was accepted (Proposed by MB seconded by RW) by a majority of members present

**5. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts (Stefano Giossi)**

SG noted that the improved financial situation in the year 2020/21 was due to reduced costs under Rabbi's fees and expenses, due to reduced travel costs, and reduced costs of hire of halls. This will not be expected to continue in future years now that in person events are returning.

The treasurer's report was accepted and the accounts for 2020/21 formally approved (proposed JG seconded CR) by a majority of members present GR thanked SG for all his work as treasurer and this was echoed by those present.

## **6. Reports on other Activities**

The following reports were presented in order they appear in the papers for the meeting rather than the order in the agenda.

### **a. Religious Affairs (RA) (Maurice Naftalin)**

MN noted that the challenge of returning to in-person services had already been mentioned in the chair's report, in particular that we currently feel that making hybrid services available when these are being led by community members is too much for us at present, noting however that Rabbi Mark has done so when he takes services for us. He commented that we need to understand better how people respond to hybrid services. Some of those present indicated how they appreciated online services and others how they appreciated the chance to meet face-to-face.

JB expressed his appreciation of the work of the RA group and the meeting joined in this support.

### **b. Cheder Report (Gila Holliman & Mor Kandlik Eltanani)**

Gila Mor and all the cheder team were complimented on their excellent work with the cheder children. RW and GR appreciated this for their children and grandchildren respectively

### **c. Burials Group Report (Ricky Hogg)**

There was no discussion on this report

### **d. Membership (Stefano Giossi and Gillian Raab)**

It was noted that during lockdown both the number of members and especially, the number of associate members had increased. SG mentioned that it was difficult to keep track of those in the Choosing Judaism group who become associate members when they are formally signed up on the conversion path with Liberal Judaism

**e. Interfaith (Joe Goldblatt)**

JG who is now chair of Edinburgh Interfaith Association noted how EIFA had organised the national event for Holocaust Memorial day this year at very short notice. The in-person and online events had been very well received. While presenting his report, JG noted the EcoFaith event which is planned for mid-May.

**f. Communications (Sue Bard)**

There was some discussion introduced by GR as to whether weekly reminders might now be too much and whether we should revert to fortnightly. The consensus was that the weekly reminders are helpful.

**g. Care Team Report (Joe Goldblatt)**

JG reported that the Care Team would welcome further volunteers now that Nancy Jones is moving to Dublin.

**h. Adult Education (Sue Bard)**

SB commented about how going online had been a great help in making the adult education more accessible. As well as Rabbi Mark's classes we have benefited hugely from the online courses provided by the Ark Synagogue in London.

This set of reports was accepted (proposed by MV seconded by NL) by a majority of members present

**7. Proposed subscription levels for 2022**

The proposal to maintain subscriptions at their current levels of £260 for full members and £130 for Associate Members (excluding those in the process of converting) was agreed by a majority of those present.

**8. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members**

**Chairperson** NS asked for nominations for a person willing to act as Chair. As there were no nominations the four co-chairs (NS, GR, SB, MN) agreed to continue as co-chairs for a further year. However NS noted, with the agreement of the other co-chairs that it is our priority for the coming year to move away from this situation so as to have a plan for succession that will ensure the future health of the Community.

**Treasurer** SG was willing to continue as treasurer. He was proposed by MN and MB and duly elected by 13 votes (SG abstained)

**Secretary** GR was willing to continue as secretary. She was proposed by SG and SB and duly elected by 12 votes (GR and CR abstained)

**Members of Council** All the 9 current members of Council (excluding SG and GR elected above) are willing to stand for a further year. They are Nick Silk, Sue Bard, Jonathan Broadie, Marjorie Broadie, Helen Ford, Kyla Reid, Barrie Levene, Maurice Naftalin and Loraine Hershon.. Rolando Hernandez and Rebecca Wober also agreed to stand for election to Council.

Each of these 13 new members were elected to the Council by a unanimous vote of all 14 eligible.

## **9. Any Other Business**

MMcK brought up the question of the timing of Erev Shabbat services at St Marks. She suggested that 7pm was an awkward time and an earlier time (e.g. 6.30pm) or later (e.g. 8pm) could be better. There was some discussion of this followed by a show of hands for earlier vs later. This unanimously favoured earlier rather than later.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm with thanks to the Chair for his orderly conduct of the meeting.