

Sukkat Shalom – Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 3rd March 2024

Present

Maurice Naftalin (chair), Jennifer Andreacchi, Sue Bard, Jonathan Broadie, Marjory Broadie, Oliver Davidson-Richards, Michael Elam, Helen Ford, Ellen Galford, Stew Green, Ricky Hogg, Catriona McAleer, Charles Raab, Gillian Raab, Nick Silk, Han Smith, Miriam Vickers, Phil Wiltshire, Alexandra Diaz Riutort (visitor)

Apologies

Colby Adams, Lisa Barcan, Nico Carlo, Norman Crane, Ros Clayton, Rebekah Gronowski, Isobel King, Barrie Levine, Maureen Mackinnon, Andrea Torres, Jonathan Staal, Rolando Hernandez Trapero

1 Approval of Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record. (Proposed by H Smith, seconded by H Ford, unanimous vote.)

2 Co-Chairs' Report (S Bard)

S Bard presented and read through the co-chairs report. There were no questions on the report, while M Broadie thanked the three co-Chairs for their ongoing work.

The co-Chairs report was accepted by a unanimous vote.

3 Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts (G Raab)

G Raab presented the Treasurer's report, and after a brief summary asked if there were any questions, during which the following points were made:

- More of the shul's money is now held in our deposit account to ensure that we benefit from the higher rate of interest now being paid
- The graph in the notes shows that we have made a surplus every year since 2020
- We have enough money in our reserves to pay for an Administrator certainly for the next year, but longer term we would have to look at how to fund this position
- It was noted that while we had a £6k surplus last year, £5k of this was due to a one-off donation from S Broadie's estate

M Naftalin thanked G Raab and N Silk for covering the Treasurer's duties. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report and accounts was proposed by S Bard, seconded by S Green and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

4 Reports on Other Activities

The 'reports on other activities' were discussed individually, but voted on as a group after they had all been presented:

Religious Affairs Report (N Silk)

N Silk summarised the report, specifically noting that many of our Shabbat morning services now coincide with cheder and the positive impact this has had. There was some discussion during which the following points were made:

- We are continuing to have more services than pre-covid times, in particular Zoom services, but the number and type of services does seem to be well received given the number of people attending services
- Feedback on the type of services we hold would be welcome
- The use of musical instruments in services is fine, and instruments have been played by several service leaders in recent years
- Training for lay leaders would be welcome – to which S Bard noted that we are in the process of finalising an event in April which will provide such training
- Whoever is leading a service can, within reason, take the service however they wish

Cheder Report (M Eltanani)

M Eltanani was not at the meeting to present the report. M Naftalin highlighted that cheder are now meeting on a Saturday morning and this has led to a much better integration of the 'cheder community' into the 'general community'. S Bard also noted that it is good that there are children over 12 who still wish to be involved with cheder.

Membership Report (G Raab)

G Raab presented the report, noting that membership had increased in 2023 and that we are now managing our membership details using the Infoodle database.

Interfaith (N Silk)

N Silk summarised the report. There were no questions or comments on the report.

Eco-Synagogue Project (J Staal)

S Bard presented the report as J Staal was not at the meeting. S Bard noted that activity has been a bit limited, but last week there was an EcoSynagogue Zoom meeting which was focussed on what activities those communities without a building could take and we hope that we can build on some of the ideas presented. There followed some general discussion where there was general agreement that doing things such as suggesting activities in weekly reminders that individuals could take would be a good way forward. M Naftalin noted that he will speak with S Zisman as he is involved in

environmental activities, while S Bard and G Raab agreed to try and ensure that the activities discussed are progressed.

Adult Learning (S Bard)

S Bard summarised the report. There were no questions or comments on the report.

Communications – Social Media (A Torres)

A Torres was not at the meeting to present the report. There were no questions or comments on the report.

Communications – Newsletter (Etrog) (S Bard)

S Bard noted that the last edition of Etrog was published in July, since when publication has been suspended. She then posed the question as to whether a newsletter such as Etrog is still relevant, and how much people miss it. During subsequent discussion it was clear that members did very much appreciate Etrog, its range of articles and that it served a valuable function that is different to weekly reminders and social media activity. Noting that the reason for the suspension was due to S Bard's workload, all agreed that producing Etrog at a lower frequency – maybe twice a year – would still be good. M Naftalin noted that the AGM would not be able to make this happen but that the situation would need to be considered elsewhere. The discussion concluded with thanks to S Bard and all those who have been involved with the production of Etrog.

Communications – Weekly Reminders (G Raab)

In presenting her report, G Raab noted that we hope soon to move to sending out weekly reminders using Infoodle rather than Mailchimp.

Social Action (S Bard)

S Bard noted that we have a list of people who have expressed an interest in Social Action from the membership survey, and E Galford noted that as the 'keeper' of this list, it is more of a basis for informing people of activities rather than a formal sub-group that is driving activity.

Care & Support (S Bard)

In presenting the report, S Bard noted that our care & support is provided on an informal basis, where we help members as best we can. We are able to point people in the directions of organisations who can provide more specialist help. During the brief discussion, H Smith stated that she would like us to think about mental health and Judaism and how we can help support in this area.

After the meeting had considered this report, all the 'reports on other activities' were formally voted upon. Acceptance of the reports was unanimous. Both M Naftalin and S Green proposed a vote of thanks to all involved with all the activities, the vote in favour being unanimous.

5 Proposed Subscription Level for 2024

N Silk told the meeting that Council, at its last meeting, had decided to propose to the AGM that the annual subscription remain unchanged, at £260 per adult member. There was no discussion on the proposal, and so N Silk formally proposed the retention of the membership fee at £260, which was approved unanimously.

6 Election of Office Bearers & Council Members for 2024

Chair

There were no nominations for Chair. That being the case, M Naftalin noted that himself, S Bard and N Silk were prepared to continue as co-Chairs. The meeting unanimously approved that the three co-Chairs continue in post.

Treasurer

D Naftalin, who was not present at the meeting, had indicated that he wished to stand as Treasurer. His nomination was unanimously approved.

Secretary

G Raab stated that she would be prepared to continue as Secretary. Her nomination was approved by all but one member, that member abstaining.

Council

The following members had indicated they wished to be considered for Council. Each nomination was considered individually, and in all cases the nomination was approved unanimously. (For the sake of completeness, all office bearers who are de facto on Council are included in this list):

- J Andreacchi
- S Bard (co-Chair)
- J Broadie
- M Broadie
- O Davidson-Richards
- M Elam
- H Ford
- B Levine
- D Naftalin (Treasurer)
- M Naftalin (co-Chair)
- G Raab (Secretary)
- N Silk (co-Chair)
- H Smith
- A Torres
- P Wiltshire

7 AOB

There was some brief discussion during which the following points were made:

- In response to a question about whether there could be some shadowing of co-chairs, it was agreed that this would be considered at a future Council meeting
- In response to a question about our second scroll, it was agreed that this would also be discussed at a future Council meeting

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to all the leaders of the community.