

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2016 AT THE MONTAGU CENTRE, 21 MAPLE STREET, LONDON W1T 4BE

SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)

PRESENT	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Joan Shopper, Harry Jacobi
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Simon Benscher, Ruth Seager, Rosie Ward, Robin Moss, Howard Cohen
RABBIS	Danny Rich (Chief Executive), Richard Jacobi, Charley Baginsky, Janet Darley, Charles Middleburgh
COUNCIL	Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Bedfordshire), Rosie Comb (Bedfordshire, LJ Officer), Jill Stern (Ealing), Alex Kinchin-Smith (Finchley), Josie Kinchin (Finchley), Barbara Fidler (LJS), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Gillian Wolfe (Stevenage), Terry Wolfe (Stevenage), Peter Gordon (Nottingham), Ros Clayton (Reading and York), Bob Dulin (Southgate), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Alice Alphandary (South London), Tony Myers (West Central), Bob Kamall (Woodford), Richard Stevens (Woodford), Bryan Diamond (LJ Hon. Archivist)
IN ATTENDANCE	Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Alexandra Simonon (minutes), Anna Craven, Tom Francies, Sam Alston, Daisy Bogod
1	<p>OPENING PRAYER</p> <p>Rabbi Charley Baginsky led the opening prayer.</p>
2	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>APOLOGIES from Louise Freedman, Jeromé Freedman, Graham Carpenter, Tamara Schmidt, Aaron Goldstein, Sharon Goldstein, Janet Berkman and Ed Herman were noted.</p>
3	<p>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 2014</p> <p>Correction to the minutes: Robin Moss and Ros Clayton did attend the AGM in July 2015. The minutes were signed as an accurate record.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Simon Benscher</p> <p>Simon gave an outline of the past 12 months spent doing his utmost to ensure that LJ has been represented at meetings, dinners, forums, exhibitions, and conferences, often supported by Rabbis Charley Baginsky or Danny Rich or even both of them at times. He has visited a number of LJ congregations, has attended meetings with Rabbinic conference, Leo Baeck students, faculty and governors, youth leaders and board officers.</p>
6	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 – Rabbi Danny Rich</p> <p>DR explained that the new presentation of the Accounts enables LJ to track goals and achievements more easily. The total income was up by £15k and the expenditure was down by £36k compared to last year. The target is to break even.</p>

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	<p>BD asked a question about the borrowing repayments. DR explained that these were loans from our communities. Our target was to repay these within 10 years. After 5 years we had repaid 65%, so we are ahead of schedule. RJ asked a question on staff numbers, which DR and SSD answered. RC asked a question on pension costs increase. DR explained that the sharp increase this year was due to LJ catching up on pension payments for staff who had not previously set up a pension plan. SSD explained the issues around pension auto-enrolment. There should still be an increase in 2016 compared to 2014, but it will be less than in 2015.</p> <p>RW thanked SSD for all her hard work on the Accounts.</p>
9	<p>Part 2 – Council meeting</p> <p>Minutes and Matters Arising – Council Meeting held on 26 April 2016 Philip Austin’s name is incorrect in the minutes.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>BD raised the issue of the location and digitalisation of the archive. He, SSD and Alison have formed a working group and asked that anyone interested get in touch. DR told Council that a group of students from Switzerland came to visit the archive and were given a tour of it and a presentation by Alison Turner.</p> <p>HJ asked what are the current plans for the use of the MC. DR answered that the place is now a busy work place, administrative centre, a shul and will soon be an adult education centre too, offering the Melton course.</p> <p>AS asked that we confirm that Mosaic has filled the survey – SSD to check with Leslie Moss and confirm.</p> <p>HJ made a few suggestions to make the MC even more of a spiritual centre.</p> <p>AA asked what happened to LJ Routes. DR answered that we are looking to include elements of this in our new plans for the MC.</p> <p>CM asked if there could be a conflict of interest with LBC if the MC starts offering adult education. DR answered that there would be no conflict of interest because LBC does not offer the Melton course at the moment so there would be no competition.</p> <p>RJ: is there enough room at the LC for these activities? DR: Yes, and we are looking into doing more live streaming.</p> <p>SSD: Simon Rothstein is still working on the ‘how to’ sheet mentioned in the last minutes, and it will be ready soon. We will also hold a ‘PR day’ for all communities interested.</p> <p>Chairman’s report Simon Benschler met with the new chair of the MRJ. The Alliance is a big part of what LJ is doing. SB talked to communities a lot and listened to what they need (e.g. music resource). SB has also done a lot of work with LBC, and LJ will encourage its communities to include LBC in their HHD appeals. SB added that the Board of National Officers works very hard but appreciates any feedback on anything more that they might do to help communities.</p> <p>Leo Baeck College report</p>

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<p>Charles Middleburgh presented his written report, and also expressed thanks for the welcome that LBC was given at the LJ Biennial.</p> <p>Biennial – Charley Baginsky</p> <p>CB said that this Biennial was one of the best that LJ had held, mainly because so many people were involved. The Biennial has changed direction, has become more relevant, more collaborative. Overall it was a great success. The numbers of attendees were very high, in part because the new pricing policy has made it affordable. The Biennial committee will be sending out USB sticks with resources to communities so they can use what has been presented at the Biennial in their communities.</p> <p>Rabbinic Conference – Richard Jacobi</p> <p>RJ presented his apologies for not having made the report available before the meeting. RJ presented his written report. He mentioned the very high proportion of LJ rabbis who participated in the EUPJ Biennial, which was a great success.</p> <p>Chief Executive’s Report – Danny Rich</p> <p>LJ has been very active in all kind of press, trying to contribute in all issues that matter to us as a movement. All these are time consuming but we have a policy not to comment on everything. DR welcomes emails form Council members about his interventions, and he wants to be sensitive to what it is that members want him to articulate.</p> <p>After interviews, chaired by Lucian Hudson, we were able to hire Charley Baginsky as Director of Strategy and Partnerships. She will help us ensure that when we set an agenda we marshal the resources to make it happen.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>AA asked what kind of engagement is going to happen with communities regarding the new siddur. DR: all communities can send their rabbis to the siddur working group chaired by Lea Muehlstein, in which all community rabbis have an equal voice. DR explained that the cost is an issue and LJ can’t fund it unless communities commit to pre-buying it. DR suggested that communities could already start raising funds for it, bearing in mind the siddur might be ready in 7 or 8 years.</p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 29th November 2016</p>