



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 26th APRIL 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	Henry Cohn, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, Sharon Goldstein, Rabbi Harry Jacobi, Corinne Oppenheimer and Joan Shopper
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Simon Benscher, Ed Herman, David Hockman, Robin Moss, Amelia Viney
RABBIS	Danny Rich (Senior Rabbi & Chief Executive), Richard Jacobi, Lea Muehlstein, Charley Baginsky, Sandra Kviat, Janet Burden
COUNCIL	Alice Alphandary (SLLS), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Rose Clayton (Reading & York), Bryan Diamond (LJS), Gary Freedman (Bet Tikvah), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Leslie Isaacs (Stevenage), Anthony Kerstein (Bet Tikvah), Josie Kinchin (Finchley), Alex Kinchin-Smith (Finchley), Mimi Konigsberg (NPLS), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Jill Stern (Ealing)
IN ATTENDANCE	Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris (Leo Baeck College), Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Alexandra Simonon (minutes), Rebecca Fetterman, Daisy Bogod, Tom Rich, Sam Alston, Tom Francies, Anna Craven, Simon Rothstein, Barry Toberman, guest speaker
	OPENING PRAYER Rabbi Deborah Kahn Harris
	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES Barry Toberman from the Jewish Chronicle was welcomed as our guest speaker. APOLOGIES from Adrienne Mannov (Shir Hatzafon), Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Bedfordshire), Nigel Cole (NPLS), Aphilip Austin (NPLS), Gillian Wolfe (North Herts), Gillian Dawson (Wessex), Ben Rich (York), Louise Freedman (SLLS), Jeromé Freedman (SLLS), Peter Bennett-Speck (Brighton and Hove), Richard Stevens (Woodford), Peter Gordon (Nottingham), Daniela Thau, Rosita Rosenberg (Vice President), Margaret Jacobi (Birmingham), Janet Burden (Ealing), Bob Kamall (Woodford), Jennifer Lennard (BKY), Aaron Goldstein (NPLS) and Leah Jordan were noted.
	MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 2015 AND MATTERS ARISING The minutes were signed as an accurate record except for one correction: Tony Myers was representing West Central Liberal Synagogue. Danny Rich reminded all communities to reply to the survey.
	GUEST SPEAKER: Barry Toberman from the Jewish Chronicle BT spoke to Council members about how to get their community news in the Jewish media. Communities are encouraged to send in their stories and news. BT gave advice on how to submit photographs. Simon Rothstein will create and circulate a 'how-to' sheet to communities.
	RABBINIC CONFERENCE REPORT



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	<p>Richard Jacobi presented his report (which he had submitted in written form) and said a few words about the refugee crisis, asking communities if they might have members who were on the Kindertransport who might come to Calais for his project in aid of the refugees. He then answered some general questions from the delegates on his report.</p>
	<p>NEW WEBSITE REPORT</p> <p>Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer presented the new website and asked all communities to submit their rabbis' bios and other relevant info to populate their community page. She also asked communities to let us know all their events so we may put them in the website's calendar.</p> <p>The Chair and the Officers wished to convey their thanks to Yszi Hawkings for all her hard work.</p>
	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Simon Benscher</p> <p>SB has visited several communities where he has been made very welcome. He would be delighted to visit more, and will do his utmost to respond positively to every invitation he receives.</p> <p>SB has represented LJ to dinners and other events, and has expressed what a privilege it is to do so.</p> <p>He has also attended many Alliance meetings and has undertaken a lot of work with the Chairs of LJ communities and with the rabbis and chair of the Movement for Reform Judaism.</p> <p>He has attended the EUPJ Biennial, which was held in London for the first time and was attended by record numbers. 39 countries were represented. LJ's influence at the conference was enormous and acknowledged</p> <p>SB commented on the fact that some Liberal Judaism communities and synagogues still don't use the word 'Liberal' in their name, when not a single Reform community uses the word 'Progressive' in its name. He commented on the fact that, at the EUPJ conference, others appreciated that the unique position of the UK in having two progressive organisations, and the differences between Reform and Liberal cultures. He feels that all our congregations should also acknowledge this .</p>
	<p>EUPJ UPDATE</p> <p>Charley Baginsky thanked the staff at the Montagu Centre as well as Josie Kinchin and Jane Greenfield for working so hard and so effectively to provide support to the EUPJ Biennial, bringing LJ's expertise with our own Biennial to help on other events.</p> <p>Andrew Goldstein appealed for LJ people to be on the Board of EUPJ.</p> <p>ALLIANCE REPORT</p>



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	<p>Charley Baginsky stated that she had been in post for three months and has done a lot of work on the Israel Desk. She has worked on securing funding for the Israel Desk, and this process is now almost over. She also explained what the aims and functions of the Israel Desk will be and how it will benefit LJ communities.</p> <p>BIENNIAL:</p> <p>Charley Baginsky gave a quick update on the Biennial. It is now two months away and we have more than 200 people registered. We aim to have another 100. 81 of our registered people have never attended Biennial. We have an excellent programme, with great variety.</p> <p>Charley appealed for nominations for the Chair’s Award.</p> <p>We are about to send out tallitot for communities to design in preparation for the Biennial. She also asked that each congregation should send a good photo of their ark</p> <p>LEO BAECK COLLEGE</p> <p>Submitted a written report.</p>
	<p>CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – Rabbi Danny Rich</p> <p>Rabbi Danny Rich (DR) went to Copenhagen to lead Shir Hatzafon’s Seder. LJ is supporting them in becoming a fully-fledged LJ congregation.</p> <p>One of the things LJ is trying to promote is the sharing of resources by communities. For example, NPLS’ choir is helping other communities who don’t have a choir. DR thanked NPLS for this.</p> <p>The upcoming Leo Baeck College Dinner is a great example of cooperation between LJ and the MRJ. LJ will encourage communities to support LBC.</p> <p>The Montagu Centre is a great asset to LJ and DR is determined that the building should be a spiritual centre as well as an administrative centre, in collaboration with WCLS. More to be announced later.</p> <p>Simon Benschler thanked Danny Rich for all his hard work, his enthusiasm and his indefatigability.</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan Diamond asked Council members to publicise the services held in French at the LJS to whomever they might interest.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bryan Diamond raised the issue of the digitalisation of the Archive: is there any prospect of getting funding for this? DR thanked BD for the question but answered that at the moment there has not been any progress on this. Rabbi Deborah Kahn-Harris offered to speak to DR about this as she has experience of getting funding for the digitalisation of the LBC library, but she warned that it is a difficult process.• Liz Allen, one of the founding members of Norwich has just passed away and our thoughts are with her family and her community.
DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING and AGM: Tuesday 5 July 2016	