

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2017 AT THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE, ST JOHN'S WOOD  
SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)**

<b>PRESENT</b>	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Andrew Goldstein, Corinne Oppenheimer, Joan Shopper
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Ruth Seager, Robin Moss
RABBIS	Danny Rich (Senior Rabbi & Chief Executive), Richard Jacobi, Charley Baginsky, Alexandra Wright,
COUNCIL	Val Harrison (Birmingham), Frank Maxwell (Birmingham), Alex Kinchin-Smith (Finchley), Josie Kinchin (Finchley), Robin Samson (Kehillah), Peter Loble (LJS), Stephen Frohlich (Stevenage), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Bob Kamall (ELELS), Richard Stevens (Woodford), Stuart Macdonald (BoD), Charles Middleburgh (Leo Baeck College)
IN ATTENDANCE	Alexandra Simonon (minutes), Rebecca Fetterman, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Tom Rich, Sam Alston
	<b>OPENING PRAYER</b> Rabbi Alexandra Wright
	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Simon Benscher, being unwell and unable to attend Council, Ruth Seager chaired the meeting.</p> <p>Ruth Seager welcomed Stephen Frohlich, the new Treasurer of Stevenage.</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES</b> from Simon Benscher (Chair), Ben Rich (York), Geoffrey Ben Nathan (Bedfordshire), Aaron Goldstein (NPLS), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Margaret Jacobi (Birmingham), Sue Head (LJS), Ros Clayton (York and Reading), Henry Cohn (Vice President), Philip Wadler (Edinburgh), Tony Myers (WCLS), Hilary Fox (Bedfordshire), Graham Carpenter (BoNO), Lucian J. Hudson (BoNO), Ruth Selo (Eastbourne), Jackie Richards (BoNO), Peter Gordon (Nottingham), Mimi Konigsberg (NPLS), Janet Burden (Ealing), Jeromé Freedman (Vice President), Louise Freedman (Vice President), Howard Cohen (BoNO), Rachel Benjamin (LJS), Rebecca Birk (Finchley), Anna Craven (LJY), Hannah Stephenson (LJY), Alison Turner (staff), and Aaron Abraham (staff) were noted.</p>
	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>A typo was corrected on page one of the minutes of the January Council minutes. The minutes were signed as an accurate record.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
	<p><b>DAY OF CELEBRATION UPDATE</b></p> <p>There will be a musical Friday night service at EL&amp;ELS (Woodford site). On the Saturday there will be a Day of Music at NPLS organised by Ruth Colin and her team. The Day of Celebration itself (Sunday 11 June) is also held at NPLS. Alf Dubs will be the keynote speaker and several LJ rabbis will be presenting. Members who cannot sign up online should call the main office phone number at LJ and a member of staff will assist them.</p>

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	<p><b>ANNUAL CHAIRS AND TREASURERS MEETING</b></p> <p>DR asked Chairs and Treasurers to get back to him on a date and format that suits them best. He encourages them to give as many comments as possible about what they would like to get out of this annual meeting. The overall aim is for the Chairs and Treasurers to meet each other, to meet the staff of Liberal Judaism, and for LJ to get feedback from Chairs and Treasurers on what LJ does and on what it should do in the future. LJ might explore the possibility of organising training for community trustees. Meetings for community council members with other functions (Hon Sec, e.g.) might also be envisaged.</p>
	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>SB being absent, he was not able to produce a report. Ruth Seager explained on his behalf that SB has been very busy visiting communities, including last Shabbat where he was at KLS for their 50th anniversary service. DR and SR told Council that both DR and the Board are always happy to visit communities for their events or their services, whenever they are invited. Ideally the Board would like to see an LJ officer or staff present at every synagogue event.</p>
	<p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Rabbinic Conference Report</b></p> <p>A written report was submitted by Rabbinic Conference, detailing their activities during the last three months.</p> <p><b>Leo Baeck College</b></p> <p>A written report was submitted and circulated electronically to Council prior to the meeting. Students and faculty have been busy visiting the communities. Rabbi Deborah Kahn Harris has offered to go and preach or teach in congregations, who are encouraged to invite her.</p> <p>Alex Kinchin-Smith said he had heard on the grapevine that the College had financial problems. Charles Middleburgh, the Dean, replied that such a question was for the Chair or Principal. RS and DR both affirmed Liberal Judaism's commitment to the long-term future of the College. BoNO had recently received a presentation from the College Chair and are working with the College to find solutions for its financial future. DR offered to brief AK-S privately.</p>
	<p><b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT – Rabbi Danny Rich</b></p> <p>DR told Council that the staff is not yet back at the Montagu Centre after a burst pipe caused a flood in February. All our activities have carried on as normal, at no or very little extra cost. Communities, and also ORT in Camden, have been very generous in offering LJ staff space to work from.</p> <p>The annual audit is currently taking place. It will show a deficit of £60k. There were two main gaps in income: fewer non-member funerals than expected, and less income from patrons. Regarding the budget, we are now committed to building a reserve fund over the next decade. We are reducing our dependence on non-member funerals. In the last year we only had £2K in general donations, but this year in the first six months we have received £60K. DR now monitors the cash flow every day.</p>

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	<p>LJ continues to support a large number of communities, large and small, as well as LBC. LJ is beginning to have a bigger presence in the North, and is exploring whether this is going to be its next big area of development. Our partnership with the Lyons Institute is now going to provide adult education outside of the M25.</p> <p>Andrew Goldstein suggested that LJ update congregations on the progress at the Montagu Centre following the flood, and DR answered that it will be done.</p>
	<p><b>FUNDRAISING UPDATE</b></p> <p>CB gave Council a presentation on LJ's new fundraising strategy. She will circulate it electronically. LJ is also planning to establish an advisory board on fundraising matters.</p> <p>We are in the process of being able to take donations on the website.</p> <p>The new suggested minimum donation for patrons has been raised to £4k although all donations are appreciated.</p> <p>Hard copies of all patrons publicity will be sent to communities.</p> <p>CB has started meeting with chairs and rabbis of communities to initiate conversations on fundraising strategies.</p> <p>LJ would happily consider working with one community to pilot a joint fundraising initiative. Alex Kinchin-Smith indicated that it is something FPS might be interested in.</p> <p>CB indicated that LJ is looking into introducing a new category of donors who give less than patrons do.</p> <p>Ruth Seager thanked Charley for her fundraising strategy report.</p>
	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Youth:</b> Sam Alston presented LJY's new plans for youth community events, in partnership with synagogues. This is to start in September. A written proposal will be circulated to community rabbis by LJY.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 4 July 2017</b></p>