

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the members of Liberal Judaism (ULPS) - known as Council, held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 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	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, Joan Shopper
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Simon Benscher (Chair), Graham Carpenter, Ruth Seager, Robin Moss, Karen Newman, Jane Drapkin, Amanda McFeeters, Jackie Richards
RABBIS	Charley Baginsky, Janet Burden, Danny Rich
COUNCIL	Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Beds), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Gerard Geneen (South Bucks), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Bob Kamall (ELELS), James Krikler (SLLS), Frank Maxwell (Ind.), Richard Stevens (ELELS), David Silver (Oxford), Alan Solomon (Mosaic)
IN ATTENDANCE	Becca Fetterman, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Tom Rich, Rafe Thurstance (minutes), Alexandra Simonon, Bryan Diamond (LJ Hon. Archivist), Paul Silver-Myer, Helen Goldhill, Simon Rothstein
1	<p>OPENING PRAYER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbi Danny Rich opened with a prayer of remembrance and a moment of silence in memoriam of Devra Freeland, daughter of Rabbis Danny and Elyse Freeland, who had been killed in an accident that morning.
ANNUAL REPORT/AGM	
2	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and a traditional special welcome was given to Gerard Geneen, Chair of SBJC, for his first attendance to Council/AGM. APOLOGIES were received from: Stuart McDonald, Ros Clayton, Robin Samson, Louise and Jeromé Freedman, Margaret Jacobi, Nick Silk, Ariel Chalklin, Peter Gordon, Annette Ray, Bill Glassman, Michael Rudolf, Nathan Godleman, Peter Whear, Cathy Burnstone, Lucian J Hudson, Steve Herman, Mimi Konigsberg, and Sharon Goldstein.
3	<p>SPEAKER: LILY'S LEGACY - SHAAN KNAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lily's Legacy Project was presented to Council Council was informed that the project was generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Shaan told Council that the project aimed to collect a minimum of 40 stories, but that there was no limit being placed on the amount of stories that they would try and collect. Council was reminded of the Lily's Legacy pop-up stall at the Liberal Judaism Day of Celebration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council was informed that more information could easily be shared, and that anyone with queries can speak directly to Shaan. • Shaan asked Council to consider finding ways to share, volunteer, join in, and encourage others to do the same. • In addition to Lily's Legacy oral history Project, Danny Rich informed Council that a short, accessible, biography of Lily Montagu would also be commissioned and released.
4	<p>MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 1ST JULY 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections were made to the minutes. • No matters arising came from the minutes. • The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
5	<p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL OFFICERS to fill the posts of Treasurer, and Officer with Youth Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Silver-Myer was elected unanimously as Liberal Judaism's Treasurer, to replace outgoing treasurer Rosie Ward. • Hannah Stephenson was elected unanimously as an Officer to the BoNO with the Youth Portfolio. • The Chair thanked outgoing treasurer, Rosie Ward, for her hard work and dedication to Liberal Judaism during her tenure.
6	<p>ELECTION OF A VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBERAL JUDAISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbi Danny Rich presented the only candidate, Phil Stone, in absentia. • Council was informed of Phil's dedication, and transformatory work at both the EJBB and the NLPS Trust. • Phil Stone was elected unanimously to the position of Vice President of Liberal Judaism.
7	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbi Danny Rich presented to Council the report and the management account overview in the absence of Rosie Ward. • Council was informed that Liberal Judaism spends c. £1.7m per annum. • Council was reminded of Liberal Judaism's intention to build a reserve of £25,000 per annum. • Council learnt that in the year ending 31 December 2018, Liberal Judaism spent £7,000 more than expected and did not deposit a reserve of £25,000. • Council is asked to direct any questions to Rabbi Danny Rich.
8	<p>REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018 and REPORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN, AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair reflected on the condolences of the whole of Liberal Judaism following the passing of Rabbis Harry Jacobi and David Goldberg. • The Chair reminded Council of the success of the Biennial in July 2018 • Thanks were offered to Tom Rich, Yszi Hawkings, and Rabbi Charley Baginsky for their work on both the Biennial, and subsequently the fundraising dinner in November 2018.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council was informed that Goldsmiths Hall had offered Liberal Judaism the opportunity to hold another dinner there and the Chair expressed his hopes that it would be possible. ● The Chair thanked the Montagu Centre staff for the efforts expended in 2018 which was “beyond amazing”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Particular thanks were offered for Rabbi Charley Baginsky for achieving “amazing results” despite only working at the Montagu Centre for a limited number of hours a week. ● The Chair thanked Council for allowing him to fulfil the role of Chair. ● Thanks were offered to the LJS for allowing Liberal Judaism to host the Day of Celebration there. ● The Chair informed Council of his continuous pride in being able to represent Liberal Judaism. ● Rabbi Danny Rich told Council that Liberal Judaism made a real impact on the Jewish world in 2018, as testified by prominent articles in the Jewish Chronicle recently ● Council was reminded that Liberal Judaism’s task is to share good ideas and good practice, because “Liberal Judaism has a voice that Jewish organisations want to hear”. ● Rabbi Danny Rich reiterated to Council his belief that “when we work together, we are better”. ● In response to a question, Rabbi Danny Rich called on Council to recognise the successes of LJ Today, and gave thanks to its editor Simon Rothstein. ● Council was reminded of the Passport Scheme, recently launched at the Liberal Judaism Patrons’ Dinner, that aims to bring in people falling away from membership and provide them with a community.
9	<p>MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING held on 22 January 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alan Solomon is a member of Mosaic and not ELELS. ● Apologies should be recorded for Amanda McFeeters and Jane Drapkin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council was reminded that apologies need to go through the Montagu Centre in order to ensure accurate recording. ● The minutes were otherwise signed as an accurate record of the meeting. ● There were no matters arising. ● Council was reminded that all feedback on the new siddur could still be sent to the editors. ● ACTION: LJ Today to be on a future Council agenda as a discussion item.
10	<p>REPORTS</p> <p>Conference of Liberal Rabbis and Cantors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council was reminded that Rabbi Aaron Goldstein is currently on sabbatical ● There were no questions regarding his report which was circulated in advance <p>Leo Baeck College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The LBC Chair, Steve Herman, was absent, and the Chair of Liberal Judaism thanked him in absentia for his efforts in making real changes to the day-to-day running of the College, and its Board. <p>Finance</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council was informed that at present there is nothing of concern in the financial report, and that if things maintain momentum then things look promising. ● Council was reminded that sometimes income can be unpredictable, but that expenditure patterns tend to stay the same. <p>Biennial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council was informed that next year’s Biennial will take place at a new location, a hotel near Nottingham, and would probably be themed around partnerships. ● Council was further informed that there would be subsidies available, and were encouraged to attend because it’s “a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other communities”. ● Rabbi Charley Baginsky told Council that it was great to see how our sphere of influence can extend outside of our individual communities ● ACTION: Rabbi Charley Baginsky to send a short 200-30 word “save the date” to communities about the Biennial that can be used in newsletters. <p>Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council was reminded that Liberal Judaism partakes in so many social justice campaigns: both as individual communities, and as a movement. ● Jane Drapkin asked Council to consider how to communicate inter-community what projects they’re involved in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SUGGESTED ACTION: create a social justice update page in LJ Today. ● Jane Drapkin informed Council that she will keep updating on the Liberal Judaism efforts regarding the Uigur Muslim community in China. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karen Newman (BoNO) asked if Liberal Judaism could send volunteers to, or highlight, the LJS refugee drop-in programme.
11	<p>LJY-NETZER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council was shown a video outlining what a typical LJY-Netzer camp looks like. ● Helen Goldhill (MoWo) informed Council that LJY-Netzer are currently in preparation for their <i>machanot</i> by preparing educational resources that focus on social inequality in the UK. ● Council was thanked for their support, and contributions to LJY-Netzer. ● Helen Goldhill informed Council that there are still spaces on <i>Machaneh Kadimah</i> but that they are going quickly.
12	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None was notified in advance <p style="text-align: center;">THE MEETING WAS ENDED.</p>