

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020 via ZOOM
SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)

PRESENT	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (President), Sharon Goldstein, Monique Blake, Corrine Oppenheimer, Joan Shopper
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Ruth Seager (Chair), Karen Newman, Graham Carpenter, Ros Clayton, Amanda McFeeters, Omar Portillo, Owen Power, Paul Silver-Myer, Janet Berkman
RABBIS	Rebecca Birk (not for whole meeting), Aaron Goldstein (not for whole meeting), Richard Jacobi, Charley Baginsky (Joint Interim Director)
COUNCIL	Sue Bard (Edinburgh), Arthur Buchman (Shir Hatzafon), Rabbi Janet Burden (BKY), Gillian Dawson (Wessex), Chris Goldbolt (LJS - proxy for Sue Head) Tamara Joseph (Finchley), Bob Kamall (ELELS), Karen Katz (Brighton & Hove), Susan King (Nottingham), Frank Maxwell (Birmingham), Leslie Moss (Northwood & Pinner), Chris Nash (Finchley), Annette Ray (Kent), Michael Regan (Brighton & Hove), Ben Rich (York - not for whole meeting), Julian Sampson (SPS), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Richard Stevens (ELELS), Gillian Wolfe (Stevenage), Terry Wolfe (Stevenage), Robert Freudenthal (Kehillah - joined at end)
IN ATTENDANCE	Becca Fetterman, Tanya Garfield, Tom Rich, Alexandra Simonon, Alison Turner
	OPENING PRAYER Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein shares a prayer that was adapted by the late Rabbi Chaim Stern and invites us all to get on with the task at hand.
	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Chair welcomes all attendees, particularly those who have not attended before: Annette Ray (KLJC), Janet Burden (BKY), Sue Bard (Edinburgh), Chris Goldbolt (LJS), Omar Portillo (Kehilla and BoNO) Apologies Rabbi Margaret Jacobi, Rabbi Danny Rich, Dr Michael Rudolf, William Glassman, Susanne Coombe, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Beverly Levy
	MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF Council Meeting and AGM 07/07/2020 Corrections

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	<p>Page 1 – Susan King (Nottingham) was present at the meeting but not listed. Frank Maxwell was representing Birmingham but not cited. Page 2, 3 and 4 all correct In light of the above changes, the minutes are signed as an accurate representation of the last meeting.</p>
	<p>CHAIR’S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to everyone for HHD services. Due to technology, I managed to visit many of our communities and they were wonderful to visit. • Dan Smith to be appointed as representative of LJ to the BoD to replace Lauren Keiles until the end of the triennial. <p>Questions on Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Goldbolt states that the financial situation of LBC looks pretty dire. The report states that LBC will update us on this if it changes, but will LJ and RJ be stepping in to get this resolved? Ruth explains that RJ and LJ are working together to have a unified approach but what is stated in the report is correct. 2. Joan Shopper finds it very distressing that there will be no LBC bursaries at the moment. Ruth and Charley answer this, with clarification from Karen. In recent times, the governance of Leo Baeck has changed and neither of the movements are currently on the Board. In order for bursaries to be given at minimum, the college and the movements need clarification of their relationship (memorandum of understanding) and the movements need reassurance that any student bursaried could be seen through the five years of Rabbinical training. This is only financially prudent. Joan asks if LJ could subsidise an individual student rabbi if there were financial concerns? Charley says she has told CoLRaC that any community has someone wishing to apply and is put off by financial concerns, they should be in contact with her. 3. Leslie Moss questions how confident are we that LBC will sort out their finances? Ruth clarifies that we don’t have control of their finances but believes they are working on forming a plan. 4. Janet Burden reminds the Council that LBC and LJ are closely entwined and reiterates the need for communities to pay their full CAFs as this affects the money LJ is able to give to LBC. 5. Chris Nash asks what percentage of the CAF goes to LBC – Charley says we pay about £125k in core funding plus bursaries, equating to roughly 13% of our budget depending on the number of bursary students in the College at any one time.

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<p>Decisions I – Contents of report noted II – Questions listed above III – Joel Beckman is appointed unanimously as Trustee of LJ until AGM 2021 IV – Vote passed that there would be a base rate on CAFs of £300pa (in other words, regardless of income or membership, no community will pay less than £300) – 16 yes, 4 rabbis yes, 7 trustees yes, 2 abstains</p>
<p>REPORTS - all reports circulated prior to the meeting</p> <p>Finance Report Apologies for the delay on the finalised accounts but the audit is still not complete due to delays brought on by COVID. The auditors have assured us that this will be completed by the Charities Commission deadline at the end of the month. Accounts will be able to be shared once they are ready. Despite the initial findings of the auditors of a large deficit, SSD was confident that this was a mistake. Her tenacity in proving this was exceptional and the final figure was just on the negative side of break even. However, the final loss figure will now rise due to Danny’s departure costs through Holiday Pay and Sabbatical Pay appearing in the 2019 accounts.</p> <p>Questions on Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annette Ray re Biennial refunds – Charley explained everyone who asked for a refund should have been refunded. If you are missing a refund please do contact Charley. 2. Michael Regan – was the original estimated loss by the auditors a mistake? Yes! 3. Arthur Buchman – is there any way to estimate how much the LJ economy has been impacted by COVID19? PMS – we are looking at between 10-20% down in income, but equally our costs are down by the same amount so we hope to break even. Some events that brought income also cost us, helping to even the playing field. 4. Chris Nash – is there only £36k of reserves in the bank? Is there a contingency plan if we do not break even? PSM – that is the unrestricted reserves, restricted is much higher. 5. Julian Sampson – asked questions on coronavirus and finances, which were answered by CB – we do not think the CAFs will be devastating and we are looking at diversifying the fundraising and have long strategic plans for this. RS – BoNO has a good look at finances every month and there are not really any surprises. Yes finance is a worrying situation for the whole country right now, but things are ok and under control. There is

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uncertainty in the future but it is largely under control and people should not be concerned or alarmed. PSM we have also had a few non member funerals, which provide us with good income.

Joint Interim Directors Report

Questions on Report

1. Julian Sampson – under partnerships you talk about the work with RJ on COVID19 guidance, he feels there was a missed opportunity for erev Shabbat services as these are small gatherings and could still happen. He wonders whether we have the balance right? CB says that we have been having these discussions each week in our Community Briefings. Rob from Kehillah shares they are doing hybrid services and Charley explains that they worked with Kehillah to understand their needs. Chris Nash says Finchley are also bringing in hybrid services. Charley highlights that there have been some very positive moves with the online environments, for example we have three new BoNO members from outside of London and we need to look at the fantastic opportunities moving online has given us.
2. Julian Sampson – asks about Biennial 2021 and is sad that we have already made the decision that Biennial 2021 will be online. CB explains that as soon as in person gatherings are allowed, we will look at doing this. Julian wishes to look at arranging a LJ Quiz and will work with Charley to plan this.

Community Briefing Report

Contents noted and no questions

Fundraising Presentation

Congratulations to Ben Rich for all the publicity with fundraising in York and the funds they have raised so far.

Tom gives Fundraising Presentation, starting with a background of his involvement in Liberal Judaism.

What do LJ Do:

- Youth with LJY Netzer
- Interfaith and Cross Communal
- Social Justice
- Community Development
- Rabbis
- Education Hub

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- Chaplaincy
- The Home for Your Jewish Story

Reacting to COVID

- Services and events moved online
- Liturgy and resources online
- Training for communities to deliver content online
- Finding new ways to deliver

Ways to Give

Patrons

- (Platinum £25k, Gold £15k, Silver £10k and Bronze £5k)
- Entry Level Patronage (£1k/year or £85/month)
- Regular personal updates from LJ via CB
- VIP invitations to important events and specific Patrons' events
- Opportunities to discuss strategic development in the year ahead

Friends

- Any regular amount given from £5-85 a month
- A meaningful relationship with your movement that doesn't break the bank
- Annual update on progress from CB
- Invitations to specific Friends' events

Legacies

- Very simple process
- LJ can assist with draft codicil that can be filled in and added to will
- Can be done in partnership with a community, doesn't need to be inclusive to LJ

Fundraising Events

- 17 December – Last Night of Chanukah to include a virtual candle lighting across communities and members' households. We are also asking communities to write its own verse to Mo'az Tzor

Please contact Tom or Charley to talk more about fundraising. The presentation will be circulated shortly.

Questions on Presentation

1. Julian Sampson asks if the Patrons figures are per annum, Tom says yes, they are.
2. Ben Rich – it would be really useful to have statistics on how many new Jews we have made. Charley answers that this is in hand.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Richard Stevens – if Patrons get to discuss strategic decisions with BoNO, where does this put council? CB says it is not about decision making but more to keep people involved in what is happening. 4. Annette Ray – brilliant presentation and wonders if it can be circulated to be put in their newsletter. 5. Tamara Joseph – can communities work collaboratively with LJ on Legacies? CB – we are at the beginning of working on Legacies and we have discovered that communities have, or want to have, Legacy programmes and we are looking to build a resource bank. If your community wishes to be involved please get in contact.
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was no other business notified in advance. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graham Carpenter says it is an honour to represent LJ in the World Zionist Congress and is happy to speak to anyone about that offline. 2. Karen Newman thanks all staff for everything they are doing to keep us connected to our communities and our Judaism during lockdown. 3. Joan Shopper wants to record how distressed she is about the use of chuppahs for mixed faith blessings. Ben Rich says he thinks this decision is very welcome and thinks it is very important. He understands Joan’s opinion but thinks it is important to highlight how good this decision was. <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed.</p>
	<p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CAFs regulations need to be updated to include the base rate decision made. AS - end of October 2020 2. Circulate accounts once signed off by auditors. PSM/SSD - hopefully by next Council Meeting 3. Check biennial refunds. CB completed 21/10/2020 4. Organise a community briefing on hybrid services. TG in discussion with Kehillah North London for November 2020 5. Contact Julian Sampson about arranging LJ quiz. CB completed 21/10/2020 6. Circulate Fundraising Presentation. TR - end of October 2020 7. Compile and circulate statistics on Liberal Jews as per Ben Rich’s comments. CB - end of November 2020 8. Contact Finchley regarding legacies. CB will make contact beginning of November 2020
	<p>Next Meeting 26 January 2021 Next fundraiser for Chanukah 17 December 2020</p>

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