

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW LONDON SYNAGOGUE
(Company limited by guarantee)**

Held in the New London Synagogue on Monday 1st July 2019

Present: Nathalie Glaser (Chair), Emily Landau (Treasurer) and over 20 members
In Attendance: Rabbi Jeremy Gordon, Rabbi Natasha Mann, Phil Ashleigh (Operations Manager)

Apologies: Anne Cowen, Lester Kershenbaum & Stephen Rosenfield

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Tenth Annual General Meeting of The New London Synagogue and confirmed that a quorum was present. She announced that as there were 4 candidates standing to fill the eight vacancies on Council, it was not necessary to go through a full election process, but members would be asked to adopt a formal resolution to appoint them.

In a change to the agenda – the Chair explained that the synagogue is well served by three wardens; and there was no need for further candidates to be appointed.

The Chair advised that the minutes of the AGM of July 2nd 2018 were not approved by her and would require amending as the current version was not appropriate, particularly the sub paragraphs under 'item 6 AOB'. She proposed that the minutes were adopted but subject to amendment. The AOB would no longer contain the sub paragraph and would simply read 'Those attending were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the sudden and unexpected departure of Cantor Jason Green in January' Opportunity was then provided for members to review the minutes. This was agreed unanimously.

The Chair advised that following the resolutions there would be opportunity for discussion on egalitarian services.

Daniel Saville was thanked for all his work and time spent on the security fencing project.

The Chair thanked member Lester Kershenbaum, our Wardens Shamashim, members of Council, Rabbi Jeremy and professional staff. She specifically thanked Emily Landau for her sterling work as Treasurer over the last seven years and for her part as Deputy Chairman.

This was warmly acknowledged by all present.

2. Agenda

The Chair asked for the meeting's permission to treat the Notice of Meeting as read. This was agreed. The Chair said that she proposed to deal with each resolution on the Agenda by a show of hands, unless 5 or more members present in person or by proxy exercised their right under the constitution to call for a poll. If no polls were called for, the Chair would declare the resolution carried or rejected on the show of hands.

3. Resolutions

The following resolutions were proposed, seconded and voted on a show of hands:

Resolution 1 – To adopt as new members of Council as follows, namely: Andy Gupta, Joel Korn, Aviva Richardson & Ellen Trager.

Proposed by Anthony Filer Seconded by Gina Sanders

Carried unanimously.

Resolution 2 – As previously mentioned, the synagogue is well served by three wardens and consequently no further need to elect anymore

Resolution 3 - To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue held on 2nd July 2018 Subject to amendment of item 6.

Proposed by Julian Dawes, seconded by Ian Govendir.

Carried unanimously.

Resolution 4 - To receive and adopt the Chair's Report for the year ended 28th February 2019.

Proposed by Alan Sanders, seconded by Julian Futter.

Carried unanimously

The meeting congratulated and thanked the Chair for her work over the year and offered support for the time ahead

Resolution 5 - To receive and adopt the Trustees' and the Auditors' Reports and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 28 February 2019

The Accounts (including the Trustees' and Auditors' Reports) had been emailed to members and further copies were available and were distributed earlier in the meeting those who requested them.

Emily presented her Treasurers report.

The meeting thanked Emily for her work in preparing the accounts and in setting up robust and compliant systems.

There were queries from members about:

- a) The cost of the audit fees which were deemed high. It was explained that some of those fees were to cover additional works outside of the usual remit by the auditors to get the accounts into suitable order. A procurement process of three quotes was mentioned. The incoming treasurer advised that he will consider costs for future audits.
- b) A member regarded the accounts as unduly complex and difficult to understand. A statement of Income and expenditure was requested. It was explained that we needed to be compliant with both company and charity law and the accounts needed to reflect this. The financial position review provided had in previous years been more comprehensive, but the Treasurer believed it had mostly not been properly considered hence a more succinct version had been provided. The incoming treasurer advised that he would plan for an additional set of accounts for next year, one set for compliance purposes and the other to be easier to understand.
- c) The treasurer advised that the accounts presented included savings for this financial year on salaries whilst recruitment processes happened. A small deficit was forecast for the next financial year.

Proposed by Elaina Rothman and, seconded by Julian Futter,

Carried with two abstentions.

Resolution 6 - To re-appoint HW Fisher & Company to hold office as Auditor to the Synagogue until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

Proposed by Anne Summers and seconded by Julian Dawes

Carried with two abstentions

6. Any Other Business

Rabbi Gordon opened a debate on Egalitarian services and advised of the historic and halachic positions.

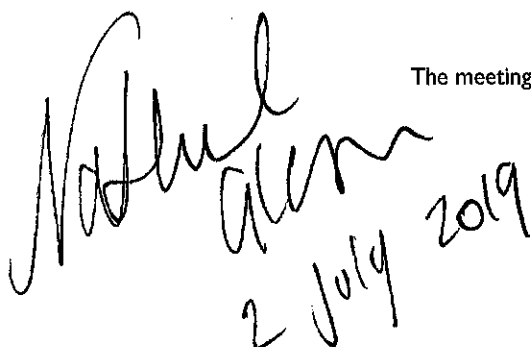
There were opinions shared by a large number of members, on both sides of the debate. Topics covered included

- Long history and recent course of consultation and change on this issue
- Risks of moving too fast alongside some frustration at slow progress
- Balance between role of Halacha and feelings in driving opinions
- Separation between balance across shabbat services and the form of the high holy day services
- Benefits of the 'two aisle' layout with mixed seating in the centre
- Importance of members considering other people's feelings and not just their own opinions
- Impossibility of pleasing everyone and likelihood of some members leaving under each scenario, sadly
- Distinction between possibility of participation and confidence to participate
- Support for the need to clarify the Shul's position while maintaining broad agreement

The Chair undertook to consult with Council and Services Committee on the question in September and report back to Membership.

A member requested that a rota be developed to include Council/Exec and other members happy to be involved, for Sunday Shacharit and Rosh Chodesh services to ensure a minyan.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm


2 July 2019