

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

**Held remotely on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Remote attendance:**

**Members:** Nathalie Glaser (Chair), Brian Linden (Treasurer) and over 25 members

**In Attendance:** Rabbi Jeremy Gordon, Rabbi Natasha Mann, Phil Ashleigh (Operations Manager)

**Apologies:** Joe Carlebach

**Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of The New London Synagogue. She announced that owing to the current restrictions on public gatherings and as advised on the notice of meeting the AGM this year would not be open to members but would be a closed meeting held in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Insolvency and Corporate Governance and Insolvency Act 2020.

Members had been strongly encouraged to submit a proxy vote in advance of the meeting appointing the Chair of the meeting as their proxy rather than a named person who would not have been permitted to attend the meeting."

The Chair thanked members of staff for their diligence and attention during the difficult period we are coping with, our Treasurer Brian Linden, our finance team, our Rabbinic team, Lester Kershenbaum for his work in services, Leslie Kosmin QC for his works in updating our constitution and Ian Greene for his work preparing for us moving to an alternate burial scheme

**Agenda**

The Chair announced the results of proxy voting for each of the resolutions as follows:

Questions were invited on each resolution ahead of voting being announced.

**Resolution 1 – To adopt as new members of Council as follows, namely: Abigail Levin, Judy Stone and Joe Carlebach**  
Proposed by Stephen Green Seconded by Julian Futter.

Q: Request that future candidates have photos provided to help other members identify them better.

**Noted and accepted.**

Votes for, 20      Votes against, 1      Abstentions 1

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 2 – To conduct voting for two wardens.**

Bob Low only was standing.

Votes for, 22      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 3 –**

**"To consider and if thought fit to pass the following resolution which will be proposed as a SPECIAL RESOLUTION:**

"That notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 6.6 and 10.2 and any other provisions of the Articles of Association of The New London Synagogue, Nathalie Glaser be and is hereby elected as the Chairman of the Synagogue to serve for an additional year and shall hold office as a Council Member and Chairman of the Synagogue until the conclusion of the Synagogue's Annual General Meeting in 2021."

This Special Resolution (requiring a majority of not less than 75% of Members) is an ad hoc alteration to the Articles, permitting you to allow me to remain as Chairman for the next year until the 2021 AGM

Votes for, 23      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 4 To receive and adopt the Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.**

**Amendment noted to 2019 minutes to correct spelling error re Stephen Rosefield and to add Aviva Raichelson.**

Votes for, 23      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 5 - To receive and adopt the Chairman's Report for the year ended 28th February 2020.**

Julian Dawes expressed his thanks and felt what had been done during difficult times was quite extraordinary.

Votes for, 23      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 6 - To receive the Auditors 'Accounts of the Synagogue (including the Auditors Report) for the year ended 28 February 2020 together with the Treasurers report.**

The Accounts (including the Trustees' and Auditors' Reports) and a set of simplified accounts which had been emailed to members and had been posted on the Synagogue's Website.

Brian Linden presented his Treasurers report including the simplified accounts in response to a query raised at last year's AGM.

He provided verbal explanations to each section of the simplified accounts and advised that the simplified accounts show a deficit of £6775 for the year.

Investments went up significantly due to prudent handling.

Q: Alan Sanders asked about the total expenditure on the security gates and the number of members at beginning and end of financial year.

**BL advised gate expenditure at over £100k with around half provided as a grant.**

**Membership change is difficult to define as some may not have paid or may consider payment as discretionary. We are cleaning up the database with a new and fit for purpose product. This will better enable us to have clearer reporting and integrate with our accounting package. The intent is to do this towards the end of this year.**

AS advised that Shulcloud may not have a gift aid module.

Q: How much damage has Covid done this year financially.

**BL advised that he felt a conservative view would be a deficit £80 K on income.**

The meeting thanked Brian for his work in preparing the accounts.

Julian Dawes also expressed his thanks.

RJG shared his appreciation for Brian's work.

Harrie Cedar thanked BL for the simplified accounts and advised that we all need to bring in more members.

It was commented that we need to be careful to hold on to members even if they have difficulty in paying.

**BL advised that this was fully our policy.**

**Burial fees excepted as to date we have needed to ensure that this was received as we collect on behalf of a third party.**

**Ellen Trager advised that prior to Covid she had been working on how we attract new members, this for clear reasons has been put on hold but we are looking to resume.**

**RJG advised of births, BMs & weddings and bereavements comparing year on year figures.**

Julian Futter asked about the L'Hayim programme.

**RJG advised that several were in financial difficulty. We have a new system in place whereby people now start paying earlier so the position is improving.**

**L'Hayim very vibrant with many participating in Shul life.**

Q: Jyll Bradley asked about how many were converting from L'Hayim to full membership.

**RJG advised that figures were not immediately to hand and will report to next council meeting.**

Votes for, 23      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution 7 - To re-appoint HW Fisher & Company to hold office as Auditor to the Synagogue until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.**

Q: Alan Sanders asked how long they had been our auditors (4 to 5 years) and had we been out to tender?  
**BL felt not in our interest to change at this moment. Believe they are very good and do things sensibly. We will in due course go out to tender as we should not have the same auditors indefinitely.**

Votes for, 23      Votes against, 0      Abstentions 0

**Resolution passed.**

**Any Other Business**

The meeting thanked NG for her outstanding work as Chair.

RJG advised the meeting about the change of burial society and that membership of JJBS would be included automatically within membership fees. For those over 50 there would be an introductory payment either immediately or at a locked in figure from point of joining payable at time of death. He feels strongly that the move to JJBS will be beneficial to our members with the amount charged exclusively for required purpose with nothing taken off for United Synagogue costs. Those within the Western scheme will not see any increases and can continue as before.

Q: AS asked. Is there an opt out option?

**RJG advised that an opt out would apply only if a member was within another burial scheme or if they intended to leave the country imminently.**

RJG advised that for Rosh Hashanah we will be providing videos including two choral products which we look forward to sharing. A short exert was shared.

Our Zoom Shacharit services are proving very popular with regular minyans 5 days a week.

David Summers thanked the Rabbis and team for providing so well during the Covid period.

RJG thanked Phil for leading on Covid compliance and how we've handled re-opening and feels that we are all as safe as is possible.

Julian Dawes confirmed that even though he is within a vulnerable category he feels safe.

RNM feels that community have come together during Covid with a willingness of wanting to help.

Difficult to imagine how far we have come doing things we could not have imagined a year ago.

Q: David Summers queried about the threat level from CST.

**Daniel Glaser advised that he had just attended the CST High Holy Day briefing and it was reported that threats are much as last year, radicalisation has been possible, but the threat was regarded as being as before. Important that we remain vigilant.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm