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North Western Reform Synagogue
Minutes of: **Annual Budget General Meeting**
held on 12th December 2017 at 8pm

Present: Peter Backman, Noeleen Cohen, Caronne Graham, Russell Baum, Michael Simon, Mark Harris, John Cohen, Robert Weiner, Tracy Harris, Lanny Silverstone, Nicola Feuchtwang, Michael Overlander, Ruth Smilg, Clare Lubin, Adam Martin, Michael Daiches, Annabelle Daiches, Honor Small, Gary Lipman, Rabbi Josh Levy, Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, Barbara Backman, Carol Rogers, Catherine Becker, Sue Haskel, Nick Morris, Andrew Gellert, Rachel Lasserson, James Rossiter, Richard Fraiman, Clare Lubin, David Graham, David Finlay.

Apologies: Fran Moscow, Rolfe Roseman, Jackie Goymour, Arie Miller, Howard Bogod, Irit Burkeman, Margaret Harris.

1. **Introduction** from President, Peter Backman. Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **D'var Torah:** Rabbi Josh Levy gave a D'var Torah on Chanukah Gelt.
3. The Vice Chair, Russell Baum gave a presentation of the **2018 Budget**.
 - i. Russell read the report for the current financial year. A copy of the presentation is available on the Alyth website.
 - ii. Comments and questions were taken from the floor:
 - a. John Cohen asked about the letter that goes to 21-30 year olds, when they become liable to pay their own subscriptions. Is there a system for tracking the uptake of membership of this age group? Rabbi Josh said a letter now goes to parents as well. This has had some effect on retention of this age group, although being a synagogue member not a priority for this age group. Instead, more work is being done on personal relationships between staff, clergy and the congregation. The new database will also provide much better access to this information.
 - b. David Finlay wanted to know if the synagogue finances are fit for the future and if we will continue to spend more as the congregation grows? Russell said there is no direct correlation between an increase in number of members and increase in expenditure. The new building project is about providing a better space for the current membership.
 - c. James Rossiter wanted to know why the caretaker budget was less than last year. Russell explained that the costs pertaining to maintenance of the flat that Alan Lee lived in no longer apply.
 - d. James Rossiter asked why the security budget was less than last year. Russell explained that in 2017 we budgeted for the purchase of a number of stab vests to be worn by volunteers on security. There would be no need to purchase these in 2018.
 - e. James Lassiter asked about the total of all investment yields. Russell said that on 30 November 2017 the value of the investment portfolio was £1,065k, the net income yield was 2.63% and target total return is 9.3%.
 - f. Catherine Becker said that CPI was in fact at 3.1%. This would help increase the amount of revenue from subscriptions. Russell said the amount was of no consequence.
 - g. Robert Weiner asked if the budget was adequate enough for the dynamic and successful programming Alyth continues to provide. Russell said the lay leadership had worked closely with the CLT (Core Leadership Team) and the professional staff in preparation of the budget to ensure that there is a level of comfort about the money available for the projected level of programming.

4. Resolutions:

- i. To confirm the recommendation from Council that the Synagogue annual subscription for 2018 (net of basic rate tax) be increased between £14 and £34, depending upon the tax status of the Member, this being the equivalent to an increase of approximately 3%.*

Proposed by Russell Baum
Seconded by Lanny Silverstone

The resolution was passed with 27 votes 'For' and 1 'Abstention'.

- ii. To confirm the recommendation from the Executive and Council that the proposed budget for the year ending 31 December 2018 be adopted.*

Proposed by Russell Baum
Seconded by Noeleen Cohen

The resolution was passed with 28 votes.

5. There being no other business the President brought the meeting to a close at 8.50pm.

Minutes taken by Caronne Graham (Honorary Secretary).

DRAFT