

Minutes of Alyth's Annual Meeting of Congregants

Monday 30 January 2023

1. Welcome from the President, Jon Epstein (JE)

President, Jon Epstein welcomed everyone to the 90th Annual Meeting of Alyth.

JE noted how amazing it is that we are back together in this great space which has already become such a central part to the prayer life at Alyth

Before the formal meeting began, JE announced that Ruth Cohen, former chair of Alyth died in Israel over the weekend. Ruth was a great example to us all of someone who stepped up and into leadership positions within her community.

JE noted that this was a hybrid meeting and was therefore in person and online.

General information about hybrid meetings:

JE went onto give information about how the meeting will be run

- Questions will be taken after each agenda item. We will take questions from the room first and then unmute individuals online to ask their questions. If online, please send a message to Adam Martin in chat first with your question. Please keep your question brief and to the point.
- We will be voting during the meeting on a number of resolutions. Voting in the room will be done via a show of hands, and online will be through an online poll

Governance compliance for this meeting:

- JE went on to note that the meeting has been called under the auspices of the Articles of Association of the Incorporated Charitable Company.
- We do have a record of attendees and ask that only paid-up members of the synagogue, who are over 18, exercise their right to vote on the resolutions.
- Resolutions will be passed by a simple majority.
- To be quorate, we need 25 Congregants to be present and able to vote.

Some information about this meeting:

- The main purpose of the meeting is to approve the trustees report, statutory accounts and elect new lay leadership. There will also be an update on the building at the end of the meeting.
- At the front with me is our Chair, Justin Wise and Community Director, Adam Martin who is hosting the meeting and helping to manage the voting process. Rabbi Josh and his Clergy colleagues will join us at various points. As will Noeleen Cohen when it comes to questions regarding the Accounts and the Building update.

JE noted that there were apologies from Jeremy Baum and Julia Simmonds

	JE declared that the meeting was quorate and introduced Rabbi Josh to give the D'var Torah.
2. D'var Torah	Rabbi Josh gave the D'var Torah.
3. To Approve the Minutes from the 2022 AMC	<p>JE thanked Rabbi Josh and moved onto the next item of business. There were no matters arising or questions for clarification.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> To Approve the Minutes of the AMC held on 23 January 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by: David Brown - Seconded by: Ruth Smilg <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved. (For: 63, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0)</i></p> <p>JE confirmed that the Minutes were approved.</p>
4. Review of the Year	JE introduced Rabbi Josh who updated the community on what has been happening at Alyth since the previous General Meeting of Congregants, where we are as a community, and what is coming in the year ahead.
5. To Adopt the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for Aug 2021 to Sept 2022	<p>JE introduced Noeleen Cohen. He explained that the finances will be presented by NC as the chair of the Finance Advisory Group.</p> <p>NC gave a presentation on the financial situation following the year's audit. This included Membership numbers, subscription income and general demographic information; Expenditure, how it is spread across the departments, how it is managed and controlled; and an Investment update.</p> <p><u>Questions relating to the presentation:</u> Have the increased interest rates and fuel prices been taken into account when budgeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whilst this is not a meeting to approve the budget, yes, the interest rate is being monitored and the gas and electricity contracts were fixed in 2022 until 2025. <p>The presentation showed a difference in subscription income and expenditure, what is this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other income includes the Kindergarten and programming income, but yes, the synagogue does run at a deficit each year. <p>What is the percentage of households on percentage reductions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About 60%. We are embarking on a legacy campaign for members who are asset rich but cash poor. <p><u>Resolution:</u> To adopt the Trustees Report and Annual Financial Statement for the NWRS (Company No. 12336110) for the period September 2021 – August 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by: Judy Smith - Seconded by: Robert Weiner <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved. (For: 58, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0)</i></p> <p>JE confirmed that the Trustees Report and Accounts for the Incorporated Charitable Company for the period September 2021 – August 2022 are approved and that they</p>

	will now be issued in final format and filed with the Charities Commission and Companies House.
6. To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for 2022-23.	<p>JE moved onto the next item of business: to re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for this financial year (2022-23).</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for the 2022-23 financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by: Gordon Smith - Seconded by: John Cohen <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved. (For: 58, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0)</i></p>
7. A word from the Chair	<p>JE introduced Justin Wise</p> <p>JW presented some highlights from the year and spoke about the roles and responsibility of the Board of Trustees. He also introduced the formation of the Advisory Groups.</p> <p>JW gave words of gratitude to those stepping down as trustees and as Vice President</p>
8. Election of new Trustees	<p>JE Thanked Justin for his first year of service to the community</p> <p>In accordance with the Rules, the Interim Nominations Group have identified needed skills within the current Board, reviewed the interested candidates who have indicated their willingness to put their names forward for election to the Trustee Board. We know that there are more people who might like to be put their names forward to join the Board. Like all major charities there has to be process as to how people are nominated. Please do be in touch with the Interim Nominations Group if you would like to join the Board in the future,</p> <p>We will be voting to elect each of the new trustees individually.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.2 and 14.4, Ilana Pizer Mason is standing for election to the Trustee Board of the North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by: Michael Overlander - Seconded by: Caronne Graham <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.2 and 14.4, Ian Howe is standing for election to the Trustee Board of the North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by: Janine Clements - Seconded by: Dan Salem <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>JE congratulated the new Trustees.</p>

9. Election of a Vice President	<p>JE explained how the structure of Alyth's Vice Presidents work and that they are elected for 3 years following retirement of the longest serving VP. Before turning to the resolution, JE gave a few words about Ruth Smilg, the VP who is standing down.</p> <p>JE informed the meeting that Janine Gray Clements has agreed to put her name forward to stand for election as a Vice President. The Presidential team play an important role in supporting the President and the Chair and Trustees, and the Professional Team.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.3 and 21.1, Janine Gray Clements has put her name forward to stand for election as a Vice President of North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110) <i>Janine's appointment was unanimously approved.</i></p>
10. Building Project Update	<p>JE: Introduced the final presentation of the evening which is an update on the building project.</p> <p>JE thanked Noeleen who will continue to hold the building project.</p> <p>JE handed over to NC who gave a presentation that included: how the building project is developing and the role of the Project Management Group; an update on the loan and the continued fundraising; and a Project Timeline and completion date.</p>
11. AOB	<p>JE noted that one item of AOB had been submitted in advance of the meeting by Brenda Freedman. The question was:</p> <p>Despite asking numerous times for the link to the Board of Deputies Community Briefing to be added at the end of the Alyth weekly email, it still does not appear. Is there a reason why this has not happened?</p> <p>AM explained why Alyth does not advertise external organisations, unless we partner with them on specific activities. That it is a challenge to promote the breadth of Alyth activities and therefore a blanket decision has been made not to add to the emails with other organisations updates or activities. We have a relationship with so many organisations that it would add too much to the email.</p> <p>AM noted that we have added a section on the Alyth website called "Partner Organisations" and added all their links there where individuals are able to sign up to the Board of Deputies briefing directly if they wish to. There will also be a link to this page at the bottom of the weekly email.</p>
11. Thanks and Close	<p>JE thanked AM for his support in running the meeting and the wider Professional Team for their work throughout the year.</p> <p>JE thanked JW and NC for all their work in preparation and delivery of the meeting.</p> <p>JE thanked Rabbi Josh and the whole Clergy team.</p> <p>JW thanked JE for his chairing of the meeting and leadership of the community as President.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9:50</p>

