



NORTH WESTERN REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Company No. 12336110 | Charity No. 1186738

Minutes of Alyth’s Annual Meeting of Congregants
Monday 10 February 2025

<p>1. Welcome from the Chair of the Meeting President, Andrew Gellert (AG)</p>	<p>President, Andrew Gellert welcomed everyone to the 92nd Annual Meeting of Alyth.</p> <p>Good evening, whether you are here in the room or joining us virtually online we thank you for giving up your precious time to be part of the 92nd Alyth Annual Meeting of Congregants.</p> <p>For those of you who don't know me I am Andrew Gellert and have the joy and honour of being the President of this community that we all love so much.</p> <p>Before we come to the business content and some housekeeping guidelines I would like to say a few words about the process of the meeting and where this meeting comes in the trajectory of Alyth's recent history. The last year has been transitional for Alyth with the newly built Leo Baeck wing and a special thanks to Noeleen Cohen who spearheaded the Building Project Management team.</p> <p>Community is never static. Innovation, addition, change and transition are all part of being a community. After our Principal Rabbi, Rabbi Josh, moved on to take up his new role leading another transition – the creation of a new Progressive Movement in the UK, and having navigated a number of absences and unexpected ups and downs, - considerable effort has gone into building our new team to take Alyth forwards. These efforts have been from the professional team, the clergy, our host of volunteers including our Chair, the Board of Trustees and the various Advisory Groups which have worked tirelessly to hold our new team. The team have worked collaboratively during the last few months and deserve huge credit for doing that.</p> <p>We have incredible talent in Rabbi Elliott and Rabbi Hannah, ably assisted by Rabbi Colin and also Rabbi Nicola, who joined the professional team upon her receiving smecha last year.</p> <p>We know that the next steps for the team will build on the strong foundations of both the Rabbinic and Professional teams. New teams have to form before performing.</p> <p>It is a beautiful quality of Alyth that we are open to change, we are tolerant and compassionate, we care for each other and we both celebrate with each other and we look out and support one another at times of challenge and loss. Every shabbat our rabbis remind us of this. Above all, Alyth is a community, a family, in which we treat each other with care and respect.</p> <p>I make no apology for picking out a few words from our Siddur’s “Prayer for Committee Meetings” as I think that its beauty and wisdom can point to how our interactions can and should flow.</p> <p>“Let us come together in God’s name and prepare to do God’s will. May Your presence dwell among us, drawing us to serve You and Your creatures with justice and with love. Let us listen to each other with respect, and treat each other with wisdom and generosity. May none of our controversies rise up from ambition and self-seeking. Let them only be for the sake of heaven.”</p> <p>VIYEHI NOAM ADONAI ELOHENU ALEINU UMA’ASEH YADENU KONENAH ALEINU MAY THE FAVOUR OF THE CREATOR, OUR GOD, BE UPON US TO SUPPORT US IN THE WORK WE DO</p> <p>At the front with me is our Chair of Trustees, Justin Wise, and our Vice Chair Nicky Minter-Green, Community Director Adam Martin, who is hosting the meeting and helping to manage the voting process.</p>
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	<p>Annual Meetings require us to fulfil our statutory duties as Members, and as a charity. We need to cover a lot of business in the two hours ahead of us this evening, and also have time for community updates, as well as being able to say some special thank you's. We will need to vote on approving minutes, annual accounts and re-approve our auditors, and we will have the pleasure of re-electing Trustees and a new Chair, and a new Vice President. So there is a lot to cover in a relatively short time.</p> <p>Thank you for letting us know in advance that you were attending. It really helps us plan how things run.</p> <p>I shall be working to a timed agenda and will be following due process and an agreed scripted format for the meeting - I will endeavour, as far as possible, to stick to time, to be respectful of your time and of the time of our professional and clergy teams and the volunteers serving us.</p> <p>AG noted that this was a hybrid meeting and was therefore in person and online.</p> <p><u>General information about hybrid meetings</u> AG went onto give information about how the meeting will be run.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions will be taken after each agenda item from the room first and then unmute individuals online to ask their questions. If online, please send your question in the chat, so we know the order of the questions. Please keep your questions 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. <p><u>Governance compliance for this meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AG 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. - As per our Articles, Resolutions will be passed by a simple majority. - To be quorate, we need 25 Congregants to be present and able to vote. <p><u>Some information about the meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main purpose of the meeting is for members to vote to approve the Trustees Report and Statutory Accounts, to elect a new Chair, Vice President, and to reelect four Trustees. - The link to the papers is in the Alyth email that was sent on Thursday and at www.alyth.org.uk/amc. <p>AG noted that there were apologies from Noeleen Cohen.</p> <p>AG declared that the meeting was quorate and introduced Rabbi Elliott to give the D'var Torah.</p>
2. D'var Torah	Rabbi Elliott gave the D'var Torah and handed back to AG
3. To approve the Minutes of the AMC	<p>AG thanked Rabbi Elliott 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 Annual Meeting of Congregants held on 5 February 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Ruth Smilg and Seconded by Judy Smith. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>AG confirmed that the Minutes were approved.</p>
4. Review of the Year	AG introduced the Rabbi Hannah, Rabbi Elliott, Lynette Chazen and Sam Heller who updated the community on what has been happening at Alyth since the previous Meeting of Congregants, where we are as a community, and what is coming in the year ahead.

<p>5. To adopt the Trustees Report and Annual Financial Statement</p>	<p>AG introduced Russell Baum who is a member of the Finance Advisory Group, and of course past Chair and Treasurer. He also thanked Noeleen Cohen who has chaired this group from its inception and will be handing over the reins after the AMC.</p> <p>RB 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>Questions were taken from the membership and answered by Russell Baum and Adam Martin.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> To adopt the Trustees Report and Annual Financial Statement for the NWRS (Company No. 12336110) for the period September 2023 – August 2024. - The resolution was proposed by David Kirk and Seconded by Russell Baum.</p> <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>AG confirmed that the Report and Statements were approved and will be filed with both the Charities Commission and Companies House.</p>
<p>6. To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors</p>	<p>AG moved onto the next item of business: to re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for this financial year (2024-25).</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for the 2024-25 financial year. - The resolution was proposed by Michael Simon and Seconded by Jon Epstein.</p> <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p>
<p>7. A word from the Chair</p>	<p>AG introduced and thanked the outgoing Chair, Justin Wise. Thank you for all your efforts through the ups and downs of this last, unexpectedly challenging year. You have held things together - every chair has to deal with challenges and you have had your fair share. Many thanks to you for all you have done".</p> <p>JW gave his reflections of being Chair for the past three years.</p> <p>JW gave words of gratitude to those stepping down as trustees and Vice President.</p>
<p>8. Election of new Trustees</p>	<p>AG thanks Justin. He moved to the Agenda items which are about transition and leadership. As a community it is important to bring a range of people into leadership who reflect the diversity of our community, to develop leaders and to have the privilege of benefitting from the wisdom and commitment of those who have been chairs and trustees, and presidents and vice presidents. We're not always perfect at it, but it is what we strive for and work together to achieve.</p> <p>The first vote is to re-elect the following members of the Board who are standing for their second 3 year term. We are going to take the four trustees as a single slate so there will just be one vote.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.2 and 14.4, JEREMY BAUM, TERRY HEYMANN, CORINNA HYMAN, and SIMONE SILVERMAN are standing for re-election to the Trustee Board of the North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110) - The resolution was proposed by Janine Grey and Seconded by David Brown.</p> <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>AG declared that all were duly elected and wished them Mazel Tov.</p>

<p>9. Election of a new Chair</p>	<p>AG explained that the Nominations Advisory Group wanted to have as broad a palette as possible from which to fill the new Chair role and decided not only to take applications from the current Board of Trustees, but also from the wider community. This year has, as we have already indicated, been unusually challenging, and the new chair will have many duties to fulfil. As such, and with permission from the Board of Trustees, the Nominations Advisory Group advertised the position to the Community and carried out a thorough recruitment process including standardised interviews for all applicants. This is a process which has never happened before and it was robust and standardised between all applicants.</p> <p>Following a robust process to find the next Chair, the Nominations group recommended to the Trustees that one candidate be put forward for election to the Board of Trustees and to then become the Chair of the Board</p> <p>As you have seen in the papers sent out for this meeting, Gary Lipman is being proposed as the Chair. You will all have seen his biography with all the papers.</p> <p>As part of the nominations process, the Trustees approved the recommendation of the Nominations Group, and now recommend to the Membership that Gary Lipman is elected to serve a three-year term as Trustee and Director, and Chair of the Synagogue.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Article 13.3.1 and 14.4, Gary Lipman is standing for election to the Trustee Board, and for election as Chair of North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Ruth Wellin and Seconded by Jon Epstein <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>AG wished Gary a Mazel Tov who then addressed the meeting.</p>
<p>10. Election of a new Vice President</p>	<p>AG explained that Vice Presidents are elected following a recommendation by the Nominations Group, approved by the Trustees. The members then vote to elect the Vice President for a term of three years. Loretta Cohn is the longest serving VP and she is now standing down. As the President I have worked with here for the last year and I have been so lucky to have her deep wisdom, kindness, support, and numerous insights at so many levels at our regular meetings and conversations. Thank you Loretta for all you have contributed. You have been a great source of knowledge in many arenas, and a very valuable resource for all in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Team. Thank you.</p> <p>It is now my privilege to ask you to vote to elect Russell Baum as the next Vice President. Russell, as I'm sure most of you know, has Alyth running through his blood. He has served the synagogue in many different capacities and has had the pleasure of sitting up here as Treasurer, Chair and Co-Chair, helping to steer the community through the challenges of Covid.said that it has been a privilege to serve as a VP of Alyth and gave a few words of support for Ruth Wellin, who is standing to be Vice President. Vice Presidents are nominated by the Trustees who are supported by the Nominations Group when needed, and on their recommendation, the members elect Vice Presidents for a three-year term.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.3 and 21.1, Russell Baum has been nominated for election as a Vice President of North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Robert Weiner and Seconded by Howard Bogod. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>AG declared Russell duly elected and wished him Mazel Tov</p>
<p>11. AOB</p>	<p>AG informed the meeting that Caronne Graham had submitted an AOB items. Caronne asked her questions concerning the Community Matters Group and Justin Wise gave a reply.</p>
<p>12. Thanks and Closing</p>	<p>JW thanked AG for chairing the meeting. AG declared the meeting closed.</p>