

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
SHA'AREI TSEDEK (NORTH LONDON REFORM SYNAGOGUE)**

Held at 10.00 am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Sha'arei Tsedek

**Present:** 76 members, and 1 visitor

A full list is available.

**Apologies for absence:** Four apologies were received, as noted below.

**1. Welcome & Chair's Opening Remarks:**

1.1 Richard Woolf opened the meeting and welcomed members. Guest attendee, Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu was welcomed. Justine Khedoory was thanked for her work with membership.

Richard Woolf spoke about Sha'arei Tsedek's core values of community, family, inclusivity and innovation. He described that, as a community, these values are evident in the way we always welcome guests; the huge range of family activities we offer; the variety of opportunities for learning that are available; our support for others and our wide-ranging social and functions calendar.

Richard Woolf acknowledged the statement released last week regarding Rabbi Judith Levitt. We wish her well for the future and there will be an opportunity to say goodbye on Shabbat 16<sup>th</sup> December. RW said people would be able to comment later on but people need to be aware that we are not able to comment further about the matter other than the statement, due to legal reasons.

Alonim has been strengthened by the addition of Patsy Maltz. Alonim is currently absolutely full. Roz and her team were thanked. Roz was also thanked for her role as a NCT teacher over the past 25 years.

The admin team were thanked.

Denise Bonham was thanked in relation to the increase in activities in the building. She has galvanised our admin team. Lorraine Feldman was thanked for her involvement with the new website, which will be launched in 2018.

Lara was thanked for keeping everyone organised and Sandra Rapley was thanked for doing a sterling job with our accounts. Richard also thanked the volunteers who help in the office.

Last year we changed the status of Sha'arei Tsedek to a company limited by guarantee. Richard Woolf thanked the custodian trustees for their services over the past year. Darren Shoffren was thanked, as was Adam Joelson who is standing down as Treasurer and Martin Paltnoi, who is standing down from Council. Richard Woolf thanked all the Council members.

Council made a conscious decision to become a London Living Wage employee. We

should be proud of this achievement. In addition, we are trying to ensure that all staff get an annual cost of living increase. Fees may need to be adjusted in future.

Volunteer and Leadership Development – Andy Kelmanson has offered to lead a group to encourage increased volunteer involvement.

Anyone thinking about giving their time, even by helping on a short-term, one-off basis, is what we're looking for.

Rabbi Ambalu's appointment promises to be the next chapter of a community that is warm, vibrant and involved.

## **2. Apologies:**

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Marilyn Shaw, Dee Eimer, Rabbi Judith Levitt.

## **3. D'var Torah:**

3.1 Emeritus Rabbi Colin Eimer gave the D'var Torah.

## **4. Guest Attendee – Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu**

4.1 Rabbi Ambalu stressed that she was addressing the community in her role as designated principal rabbi. She spoke a little about her background. She then told a story about Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai and Rabbi Joshua. She ended her address by saying how much she was looking forward to joining ST in January as part of the community.

## **5. Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> AGM:**

5.1 Factual alterations: Gordon Green: 8.2.1 should say "queried about creditors."

5.2 The minutes were then **approved**. Proposed: Leslie Gold; Seconded: John Hesse.

## **6. Incorporation to a charitable company update:**

6.1 Dan Kelmanson updated everyone. He explained we are still in the process of finalising The transfer. Assets moving across very shortly. Everything should be finalised before the end of the tax year.

## **7. Receipt and Discussion of the Annual Review 2016/17:**

7.1 Thanks were given to Darren Shoffren and Lorraine Feldman for their work.

7.2 There was a brief discussion on the new condensed format of the Annual Review

7.2.1 DS thanked everyone who supplied information for the Annual Review.

Proposer: Stan Ruben Seconder: Sharon Lee. Approved.

## **8. Receipt and Discussion of the Statement of Financial Affairs for 2016-7:**

8.1 Adam Joelson reviewed the main points of the Financial Statement.

8.1.2 He repeated that Alonim is the "cash cow" of the Synagogue.

8.1.3 The auditors are generally happy.

8.1.4 Sandra Rapley was thanked. Together with Adam, they have introduced a 3-month cashflow for Council meetings.

8.1.5 He also thanked Leslie Gold and all staff and volunteers.

8.2 Financial responsibility for the shul is the duty of all trustees. Adam has introduced trustee indemnity insurance and implemented new SAGE accounting software.

8.2.1 The Barth Legacy was raised and Adam explained that of the £30,000 it had been agreed that we would keep £2,000 and return the remaining £28,000. This was not ideal but had been agreed. The money is kept in a separate bank account, solely for this purpose.

8.2.2 Richard Woolf thanked Adam Joelson for his work as Treasurer over the past year.

8.4 The Statutory Accounts were then **accepted**. Proposed: Adam Joelson; Seconded:

Sammy Kornhauser.

**9. Elections for Council:**

9.1 Thanks to Council were made.

9.2 There was only 1 candidate for each Officer post and the sufficient candidates for the remaining Council Posts, as a result all those standing were declared duly elected.

The following members were elected to the following Offices:

Synagogue Chair	Richard Woolf
Honorary Treasurer	Danny Goldblum
Honorary Secretary	Darren Shoffren
Senior Warden	Marc Werblow

The following members were elected to Council:

Council Member	Ashley Feldman
Council Member	Justine Khedoory
Council Member	Samuel Kornhauser
Council Member	Caroline Morris
Council Member	Simon Kaufman
Council Member	Barbara Carmel
Council Member	Andrea Laurence
Council Member	Janet Renton
Council Member	Leslie Gold
Council Member	John Hesse
Council Member	Andy Kelmanson
Council Member	Dan Kelmanson

**10. Motion to elect the Auditor for the ensuing year:**

10.1 It was agreed that the current auditor FMCB should be re-elected for a further year.  
Proposed: ....., Seconded: .....

**11. Charity Boxes & Gemach Fund:**

11.1 Michele Charkham-Gold explained about the charity boxes and that we have had a drop in the amount raised. The Gilstons were thanked and Michelle Charkham-Gold was thanked.

11.2 Leslie Gold gave an update on the Gemach Fund and requested more members set up monthly direct debits to support it.

**12. Any other business, as notified to the Honorary Secretary in advance of the meeting:**

12.1 Angela said that there are a number of thriving communities in north London and she wondered why we couldn't have a communal website to advertise our events. Richard Woolf said we would look into it.

12.2 Ruth wanted to remind everyone that the name of the Synagogue is "Shaarei Tsedek" and she does not feel that she's seen much "tsedek" today.

12.3 The issue was raised of scant attendance at Friday night services and wondered whether our Bnei Mitzvah students could bolster the services. Steve Levenson responded on the requirement of the B'Nei Mitzvah program and the Passport scheme.

**13. Close:**

15.1 There being no other business, the meeting was then closed.

**EXTRA ITEM: The AGM was opened for questions about the Rabbinic Team.**

Members were invited to share their views on the recent announcement regarding Rabbi Levitt's departure. A number of members expressed their feelings regarding Rabbi Levitt and the contribution she has made to the community.