

Network of Buddhist Organisations UK
Committee meeting
West London Buddhist Centre
15th July 2016

Present: Val Stephenson (Chair), Munisha (by Skype and taking minutes, first half), Jamie Cresswell, Juliet Hackney, Keith Munnings, Jo Backus

Invited: Pamodha Wasala (minutes second half), John Marder

Apologies: Saido Kennaway, Modgala Duguid

Invited but apologised: Yann Lovelock

Treasurer's report: Saido had supplied us with up to date accounts, which were accepted.

Nominations for new trustees

Jo, Saido, Jamie, Val and Munisha are presently trustees, who in our current legal structure are responsible for the good governance, including finances, of the NBO. The committee is not.

We need at least one nomination by 31st July.

Membership

Membership is the responsibility of all committee members because we are each linked to various networks of Buddhists. Juliet is the new membership secretary but can't be solely responsible. **Juliet to contact each of us asking us to look at the list of potential members and identify our contacts**

Agreed to work together across traditions for the good of Buddhism, and society in general, especially in these areas

- Chaplaincy
- BAM/ engaged Buddhism
- European Buddhist Union
- Education work: keeping well-taught and resourced Buddhism in RE
- Interfaith

These are not membership-led activities but are the kind of things that the membership would expect us to be doing on their behalf.

- We **agreed** it was a good idea to try public day-events again
- **Agreed** to invite groups not in membership to our AGM
- **Potential** for much more work supporting university Bud Socs.
- **Agreed** that **Keith** could put on events such as higher education chaplaincy days 'in association with the NBO', with any help possible from us. **Jo, Juliet and John offered to help as** a 'task and finish group' as Keith put it!
- **Agreed** it would be good to invite a Buddhist in Higher Education chaplaincy to get involved with us. **Keith** has been asking and will continue to try.
- **Agreed** **Val and Jamie** to work on text for advertising AGM (5th November) for **Munisha** to turn into a news post on the NBO website which can also be used for FB posts. They will ask **Robbie** to create an FB event page to make it stand out more. When text is ready, **Keith** will ask Alokavira to design a flier to be sent out by email.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Munisha has model (and Buddhist) policies the NBO can adopt, which is something the Charity Commission ask when we submit our annual return online. She will bring them to the next meeting for us to consider.

Buddhist Action Month 2016 – review

It was a great success. The problem was that although people were doing lots of stuff – far more than we thought – they didn't post it online.

Groups which took part, that we know of:

- Triratna, across the UK, Germany, Turkey and even America
- SGI-UK
- Western Chan Fellowship

The BAM team will be holding a formal review, probably in October.

Munisha said Triratna's Mokshini had offered to join the NBO overall BAM team. **Agreed** this was a good idea.

NBO networking

We in the NBO often get queries about particular questions to do with Buddhism. Can we use online communications to develop a similar tool to build up/share knowledge among various Buddhist networks?

Agreed to try it out among the committee to start with, with a topic such as organ donation, to see how it works. **Keith and Jamie** to work together on this and try it out with committee group.

(Munisha stopped taking minutes at this point.)

Collaboration with the Buddhist Society

Keith has been talking to Mariano Marcicaglia, education officer at the Buddhist Society, asking how we can improve co-operation between the NBO and the BS.

AGM 2016 Planning

The AGM this year will be Saturday Nov 5th at the SGI-UK South London Buddhist Centre in Brixton.

<http://www.sgi-uk.org/about-us/local-sgi-uk-centres/south-london-national-centre>

Val and Jamie will design a flyer for the AGM which will be circulated and posted to FB and the NBO website. **Juliet** will send it out and encourage new and lapsed members to attend.

Last year's AGM was very successful and we plan to build on that success this year.

Ideas for themes were discussed and an invitation to come and explore 'The Social Role of Buddhism' and 'The Path to Compassionate Action' were suggested topics.

It was suggested that sitting in a circle would be good if it is possible, and also that we start with a short practice session that everyone could join in with. Loving Kindness Practice was suggested.

Regarding the formal business, Saido has sent out a timeline by which everything needs to be done. Officers are asked to get their reports to Saido by the deadline. The committee were asked if anyone might like to stand for election to be an NBO Trustee. Both Juliet and Keith are interested and everyone is asked to look at the schedule for nominations in the documents that Saido has sent out.

Interfaith IFN Trustees and Moderators

There is a space for one Buddhist trustee of IFN to give a Buddhist voice there.

ACTION: Yann to be asked to set up a meeting with Desmond from the Buddhist Society and Ven Seelawimila to discuss representation as soon as possible.

Education

Jo reported on her continuing work on behalf of the NBO in fields of religious literacy and religious education. She will keep the committee updated.

EBU

Jamie reported his work representing the NBO at the EBU, including this year's EBU conference on "Buddhism in Action".

AOB

Jamie asked for people to share their knowledge and experience regarding Buddhist funerals particularly where there is no family and no indication what tradition, if any, of Buddhism the deceased might have belonged to.

Date of Next meeting

Val will send out a Doodle poll to arrange a committee meeting. This meeting will be to plan the AGM.