



NORTH WESTERN REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Company No. 12336110 | Charity No. 1186738

Minutes of Alyth's Annual Meeting of Congregants
Monday 5 February 2024

<p>1. Welcome from the Chair of the Meeting Vice President, Robert Weiner (RW)</p>	<p>Vice President, Robert Weiner welcomed everyone to the 91st Annual Meeting of Alyth.</p> <p>Friends, 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 91st Alyth Annual Meeting of Congregants.</p> <p>For those of you who don't know me I am Robert Weiner the outgoing Vice President and I will be deputising for Jon Epstein our President tonight, Jon is here. He has not been well over the past few months and in consultation with the leadership Jon asked that I chair this meeting in his place. It is some while since I had the honour of chairing an Alyth meeting but those who I have had the pleasure of working with here at Alyth will know I value everyone's opinion, treat everyone with respect, finish meetings on time and always ask that anyone who has a question, "when we come to that part of the meeting" simply ask the question without any preamble or statement!</p> <p>I think it's fair to say that the last year has been transitional for Alyth. It has seen the hard work of Noeleen Cohen and all on the Building and Fundraising groups efforts start to bear fruit with the breaking of ground, as we can now all clearly see the very real development of our new building but more on that later.</p> <p>Community is never static. Innovation, addition, change and transition are all part of being a community. This past year Rabbi Josh moved on to take up his new role leading another transition – the creation of a new Progressive Movement in the UK.</p> <p>Rabbi Golan Ben Chorin has joined us as our Interim Rabbi and we will begin the process of recruiting a new member of the rabbinic team, which Justin will speak a bit more about. We have incredible talent in Rabbi Elliott and Rabbi Hannah, ably assisted by Rabbis Colin and Golan, and student rabbis, Nicola Feuchtwang and Eleanor Davis. We know that the next steps for the team will build on the strong foundations of both the Rabbinic and Professional teams.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RW noted that this was a hybrid meeting and was therefore in person and online.</p> <p><u>General information about hybrid meetings</u> RW went on to 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">- RW 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>
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	<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 President and Vice President, and three new Trustees. - The link to the papers is in the Alyth email that was sent on Thursday and at www.alyth.org.uk/amc. - Our Community Director Adam Martin and his team will be doing a community update, looking at the year that has past and ahead to 2024. The building update has been moved up the agenda and will be done by Noeleen as part of looking ahead to 2024. Chair of Trustees, Justin Wise will be doing a Chairs' update in which he will speak about the Rabbinic Transition <p>RW noted that there were apologies from David Brown and Caronne Graham.</p> <p>RW declared that the meeting was quorate and introduced Rabbi Golan to give the D'var Torah.</p>
2. D'var Torah	Rabbi Golan gave the D'var Torah and handed back to RW
3. To approve the Minutes of the AMC	<p>RW thanked Rabbi Golan 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 30 January 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Michael Overlander and Seconded by Noeleen Cohen. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>RW confirmed that the Minutes were approved.</p>
4. Review of the Year	RW introduced Adam Martin, Rabbi Elliott and Lynette Chazen 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. Noeleen Cohen also gave a building development project update.
5. To adopt the Trustees Report and Annual Financial Statement	<p>RW 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>Resolution:</u> To adopt the Trustees Report and Annual Financial Statement for the NWRS (Company No. 12336110) for the period September 2022 – August 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Peter Backman and Seconded by Russell Baum. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>RW confirmed that the Report and Statements were approved and will be filed with both the Charities Commission and Companies House.</p>
6. To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors	<p>RW moved onto the next item of business: to re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for this financial year (2023-24).</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> To re-appoint Nyman Libson Paul as auditors for the synagogue for the 2023-24 financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resolution was proposed by Michael Green and Seconded by Andrew Gellert. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p>

<p>7. A word from the Chair</p>	<p>RW 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 gave an update of the Advisory Groups and the process of Rabbinic Transition.</p> <p>JW gave words of gratitude to those stepping down as trustees, Vice President and President</p>
<p>8. Election of new Trustees</p>	<p>RW thanks Justin and spoke about transition and leadership. As a community we thrive on bringing new people into leadership, to develop leaders and to lean into 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>In accordance with the Articles and Rules, the Nominations Group interviewed and reviewed interested candidates, who indicated their willingness to put their names forward for election to the Trustee Board. Following a robust process, the Nominations group recommended to the Trustees that three candidates be put forward for election to the Board. You will all have seen their biographies on the Alyth website.</p> <p>The Trustees unanimously approved the recommendation of the Nominations Group, and now recommend to the Membership that 3 new members of our community are elected to serve a three-year term as Trustees and Directors of the Synagogue.</p> <p>We will be voting to elect all three trustees in one vote.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Articles 13.3.2 and 14.4, Juliette Levinson, Noemi Zell and Ben Portner are standing for election to the Trustee Board of the North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110) - The resolution was proposed by Julia Simmons and Seconded by Davina Solomons Wise.</p> <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>RW declared that Juliette Levinson, Noemi Zell and Ben Portner were duly elected and wished them Mazel Tov.</p>
<p>9. Election of a new President</p>	<p>RW explained how the structure of Alyth's Presidential Team works and that they play an important role in supporting the Chair and Trustees and the Professional Team.</p> <p>Before turning to the resolution, RW gave a few words of gratitude about Jon Epstein, who is standing down.</p> <p>RW informed the meeting that Andrew Gellert has agreed to put his name forward to stand for election as a President for one two year term, with the option of it being extended for a second two-year term. JW said a few words about Andrew.</p> <p><u>Resolution:</u> In accordance with Article 21 and Rules 4 & 4.3, Andrew Gellert has been nominated for election as President of North Western Reform Synagogue (Company No. 12336110) - The resolution was proposed by Janine Grey and Seconded by Gill Epstein</p> <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>RW wished Andrew a Mazel Tov who then addressed the meeting.</p>
<p>10. Election of a new Vice President</p>	<p>RW 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, Ruth Wellin 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 Juliette Overlander and Seconded by John Cohen. <p><i>A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.</i></p> <p>RW declared Ruth duly elected and wished her Mazel Tov</p>
11. AOB	RW informed the meeting that we have not been notified of AOB items
12. Thanks and Closing	<p>JW gave further thanks to Jon Epstein, to RW for chairing AM for his support in running the meeting and the wider Professional Team for their work throughout the year. He thanked NC for all her work in preparation and delivery of the meeting.</p> <p>RW to declare meeting closed.</p>