



**MINUTES OF
THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE OF BRITISH JEWS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

Held on 26th JUNE at 7.00pm

1. Matters arising and confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2017.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of West London Synagogue were issued to congregants prior to the 2018 AGM, via an E-News link to our website. As no comments were received thereon, they were approved as final.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#), for the approved 2017 AGM minutes.

2. Chairman's Report.

Patrick Mocatta updated the meeting on the progress that has been made in the past year to address the previous financial shortfall and the ongoing developments that will ensure a positive future for WLS's. This has been possible due to the necessary tough measures and restructuring that the Board and Leadership implemented in 2017, and that Jill Todd spoke about at last year's AGM.

Patrick paid tribute to the current lay leadership on the Finance side at WLS, with particular reference to the Treasurer, David Marks; and also to the Executive Director, Stewart Sether.

Please refer to [Appendix 2](#) for the Chairman's full address, which will also be published on the WLS website, along with the minutes of this AGM and the reports presented.

3. To receive the Community Reports for 2017, as presented by the Chairman.

The reports were issued to congregants prior to the AGM, via an E-News link to our website. As no comments were received thereon, they were approved as final.

Please refer to [Appendix 3](#), for the approved 2017 Community Reports.

The President, Stephen Moss thanked the Chairman, Patrick Mocatta for the reports and invited questions from the floor.

Joanna Rustin asked if it was possible to include an article in The Review about upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger explained that this may not be possible due to Child Protection/Parental Consent issues and reference was also made by Patrick Mocatta to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Michael Lewis asked if deaths of WLS Members could be published on the WLS website.

It was noted that GDPR would likely prevent this being possible.

4. To receive and adopt the Trustees Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017.

Please refer to [Appendix 4](#), for the address made regarding the Report and Accounts, which was presented by Stewart Sether, the Chief Executive on behalf of the Treasurer, David Marks (who was absent from the AGM due to family commitments abroad)

HW Fisher, the Auditors (represented at the AGM by Jonathan Lachman) were thanked for their diligence and advice on auditing principles.

Please refer to [Appendix 5](#), for the adopted 2017 Trustees Report and Accounts.

No comments were received from the congregants on the reports, which were proposed by Michael Cutter and seconded by Michael Lewis and being unanimously accepted at the meeting, they were approved as final.

On behalf of David Marks, Stephen Moss expressed thanks to Stewart Sether, and also Stephen commended David Marks for his excellent work as Treasurer.

5. Election of Board Members.

The Chairman outlined the election process stating that for the 5 vacancies there had been 5 nominees.

The President announced the names of the nominees, all of whom have been endorsed by the Board:

Joan Arnold (co-opted last year, to replace Richard Newton), David Chapman, Rosalind Copisarow, David Gasperow, Sylvia Mingay.

All of those nominated to stand were elected as Board Members.

6. To ratify the appointment of a new Senior Warden, Rita Yusupoff.

The appointment, to take over from Stewart Sether who could not stand as he is currently the Executive Director of WLS, was unanimously carried.

The President expressed thanks to Paul Jaffa and Michelle Ross for their Office, as Senior Wardens.

7. To ratify the appointment of the incoming Junior Wardens.

The appointments of Liliane Chan and Steven Rowe were unanimously carried.

The President extended his best wishes for their 3 years in office.

8. To ratify the appointment of WLS representatives to the Board of Deputies.

The appointments of Anthony Feather, John Lawrence, Lenka Kohli, Naomi Ter-Berg and Peter Vogl were unanimously carried, and the President thanked them for agreeing to serve.

9. To ratify the appointment of a new President.

Mark Fox, the nominee for President (put forward by Patrick Mocatta, and accepted by the Board,) is a WLS Congregant and has also previously held the Office of Chairman at WLS.

The appointment was unanimously carried.

The Chairman expressed tremendous gratitude to Stephen Moss the outgoing President, on behalf of all Staff, Volunteers and Members for his service, wisdom and in particular, for his commitment to fundraising for general purposes and for many specific projects.

Stephen's wife, Joy was also thanked for supporting Stephen in giving his time to the WLS community.

10. To confirm the appointment of the Auditors.

Stephen Moss requested a proposer for HW Fisher to be reappointed as our Auditors for 2018. Geoffrey Marx proposed this motion, which was seconded by Jill Todd and carried unanimously.

11. AOB.

There was a question from Anthony Feather, on what progress has been made on the aerial development above the Stern Hall.

Andrew Stone replied that it was felt that it was important to do the correct thing, rather than to do something quickly, and a measured approach is being taken, to ensure we get it right. Halcyon had approached WLS about a year ago, but as discussions continued, it became apparent that Halcyon were unable to fulfil their original proposal, and their offer became less attractive for WLS.

Other options that have been considered are:

1. For us to sell the roof space as potential for development for residential purposes, however that would just provide a capital sum, and the market is currently poor;
2. For WLS to undertake a "Joint Venture" with a Developer being split on a pre-agreed proportion where they lease and then may or may not rent out. We are in the early days regarding possible joint venture partners, terms and potential length of lease.

Andrew advised that Roger Moss and himself are meeting with Knight Frank in July regarding possible "heads of terms".

The developer would either be part of or known to the WLS Congregation. Consent would be required from the Congregation on the final terms.

There was a question from Joanna Rustin querying how WLS did not fulfil its obligation to pass a portion of Stonemasons payments received to Hendon Reform Synagogue (for burials of their members at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery)

Stewart Sether replied that the original agreement was made between WLS and Hendon Reform in 2004 and unfortunately due to the mists of time and changes in both organisations, through neither parties' fault, the oversight occurred, which has now been rectified.

There was a question from a congregant as to how WLS's relationship was with Halcyon now, with them having been rejected.

Andrew Stone and Stewart Sether both advised that relations and communications had not soured at all, and the Halcyon proposal was rejected due to uncertain viability for completion (their business plan for the future not yet being fully scoped) and neither was it financially attractive for WLS, considering the potential value in the air space.

12. Closing Blessing

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, gave the closing blessing.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm, with refreshments then being served.