

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
EDGWARE & HENDON REFORM SYNAGOGUE  
HELD ON SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT  
118 STONEGROVE, EDGWARE, MIDDLESEX HA8 8AB**

**Present:** There were 40 EHRS members present

**Apologies:** Michael Lerman, Lorna Perez, Jo Weber, Kito Holz, Sharon Price and Stewart Abbey

**In Attendance:** Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

Janet Brand, Chairman of EHRS welcomed everyone to the AGM, and explained that the meeting was also being live-streamed for those not wishing to attend in person. JB added that if any members had questions that they wanted to be asked but were unable to attend there was a period before the meeting when questions could have been submitted in advance and they would be answered. Four questions had been submitted, which were received just with 1 working day before the meeting, JB advised that they would be answered during the course of the meeting as best as possible. If not satisfactorily then this would be done as soon as possible after the meeting.

JB advised that from March 2020 all services and programming reverted to Zoom due to the Pandemic, and going forward it has been difficult coming out of the lockdown, its always much easier closing a building rather than re-opening it and making 118 Stonegrove a safe place to attend. JB added that she was proud of all the services and events that have been held and thanked Perry Newton for all his support in constantly updating all the technical equipment, the Tech Team and Ann Sadan, the Education Department and of course the Rabbis for being so motivated and creative to keep everyone going. JB advised all attendees of the meeting that after over a year of working with EHRS it will be Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers induction on 16 October and Rabbi Mati Kirschenbaum will be joining EHRS in November this year. JB thanked both Rabbi Roberta Harris-Ecksten and Student Rabbi Lev Taylor for all their help and support. JB also thanked Val Joseph and Marissa Rosenthal for all their hard work they do in the Welfare Department along with their team of volunteers.

JB added that In March 2021, Jewish care sadly closed their doors at 118 Stonegrove and moved back to their main campus in Golders Green. The Ground Floor of the Community Centre has undergone a whole refurbishment, which has enabled Nagila Nursery and Bookie Babes to expand both their spaces.

JB referred to the first question received which was:- “ The major risks and uncertainties that faced the Synagogue (identified on the Annual Report and Statements) are that EHRS fails to:- maintain the current level of membership, Successfully grow fundraising activities and successful increase the number of young family members.

JB replied to the question that at the recently held “Blue Sky Strategy Day” held at EHRS it was discussed on how EHRS can improve on the fundraising, and attract young families and members, get them engaged within the community and going forward to ensure that the EHRS thrives. Sadly there have been a number of deaths within the community. This was mainly due to the Pandemic and old age. JB added that more about the “Blue Sky Day” would be discussed later in the AGM.

### **1. Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 12 November 2020:**

There was 1 amendment – the date of the AGM was not included - the amendment was made.

Proposed by Bradley Trainis

Seconded by Michael Weber

The Minutes were approved by a majority vote.

### **2. Trustees Report: Report from the Trustees on Activities held during 2020:**

JB advised that the Trustees Report for the past year was very comprehensive, showing just how most events were able to adapt by using zoom and keeping the Community in touch virtually- from the Community Directors Report, the Services Report, Young Adults, Youth Department, as well as groups within EHRS, such as, Yoga, Social Action, Board of Deputies, Reform Movement and AJEX. JB opened up the Meeting for any questions.

One question that came in prior to the meeting asked “I could not find any mention in the Annual Activity Report of the Annual report and financial statements of ESG (environmental, Social and governance issues) of EHRS investing strategies. Please state and supply the EHRS policy regarding ESG investments”

Kevin Maddison advised that 45% of the investments were invested within the environmental green sector through Cazenove and the remaining invested income also remains within Cazenove. KM added that page 12 of the Audited Accounts does show all the information with regards to the question in detail.

Proposed by Eric Sander

Seconded by Sharon Garson

The Trustees Report was approved by a majority vote.

### **3. Election of Council for 2021**

JB Thanked all existing Honorary Officers and Council Members for their hard work and support over the past year and continued to read the names of the proposed Honorary Officers and Council Members for the forthcoming year. JB added that she would be speaking to all newly elected Council Members individually advising them of their duties as Council Members.

JB advised all attendees that David Lytton was stepping down as Senior Warden. JB thanked David for all his hard work during the past year. Keith Price will be Senior Warden and Annita Tischler will be standing as Junior Warden.

(i) Chairman: Janet Brand - Proposed by Mr d Mitchell seconded by Mr J Harrod

(ii) Joint Vice-Chairmen: Jeremy Harrod - Proposed by Mr D Mitchell seconded by Mr R Brand  
Jo Sigalov - Proposed by Mr J Harrod; seconded by Mrs J Brand

(iii) Joint Honorary Treasurer: Kevin Maddison - Proposed by Mr P Newton; seconded by Mrs M Allen.

Joint Honorary Treasurer – Mr M Lerman Proposed Mr B Trainis; seconded by Mr A Woolstone

(iv) Honorary Secretary: Michael Weber - Proposed by Mrs J Langer; seconded by Mrs T Light

(v) 2 Additional Honorary Officers

Daniel Mitchell – Proposed by Mrs J Brand, seconded by Mrs M Allen

Andrew Woolstone - Proposed by Mr B Trainis, seconded by Mr M Lerman

#### **Additional Council Members;**

Fiona Aitman – Proposed Mrs J Brand; seconded by Mrs M Allen

Robert Brand – Proposed by Mr J Harrod; seconded by Mr D Mitchell

Donna Bryk – Proposed by Mrs Marilyn Albert; seconded by Miss B Lemer

Neil Flash – Proposed by Mr J Harrod; seconded by Mrs J Brand

Sharon Garson – Proposed by Mrs J Brand; seconded by Ms S Young

Ben Konyn – Proposed by Mr D Mendoza-Wolfson; seconded by Ms J Staal

Eric Sander – Proposed by Mrs J Brand; seconded by Mrs M Allen

David Mendoza-Wolfson – Proposed by Mrs J Brand; seconded by Mrs M Allen

Lorna Perez – Proposed by Mrs J Brand; seconded by Mrs M Allen  
Bradley Trainis – Proposed by Mr A Woolstone; seconded by Mr M Lerman  
Jo Weber – Proposed by Rabbi M Goldsmith; seconded by Rabbi D Young-Somers

The meeting unanimously approved all members of council.

#### **4. Election of Junior Warden**

The Junior Warden is Annita Tischler - Proposed by Mr P Newton; seconded by Mr L Bernard

#### **5. Election of Young Members to Council**

The Young Members representative is Elliott Allen – Proposed by Rabbi D Young-Somers; seconded by Mrs V Joseph

#### **6. Approval of Audited Accounts 2020 for discussion.**

JB handed over the presentation of the accounts to Kevin Maddison. KM thanked Michael Lerman, all Council Members, staff in particular the In-house Accountants for all their hard work enabling that the audit for 2020 was on time. KM added that on pages 12 & 13 there of the Accounts Report there is a full breakdown showing a clean account.

#### **7. Draft Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020.**

Kevin Maddison, presented the 2020 accounts with the explained slide show presentation and explained that both sets of accounts have a wealth of information.

The net value of the investment has doubled from £22K to £46K the net income before the investment with Cazenove is £155K. This is a good revaluation as this is an increase of £100k In total invested bringing a total of £13m , £400k in unrestricted designated funds. KM added that the assets in the restricted fund shows a balance of £7.5m and this is an increase of £352K. there is £8m in the designated fund giving a total of £13.4m. KM added donations have increased and there is no surprise, that charitable donations have decreased. The figures overall show that overall there has been a 4% increase across the board above the rate of inflation, the largest expense is the staff cost, closely followed by the payments to the Jewish Joint Burial Society and the RJ payments. KM added that there are adequate funds available in the designated project fund for the Blue Sky Day.

KM asked if there were any questions he could now answer on the 2 sets of accounts, and he would welcome any written questions after the meeting which he would reply to as quickly as possible. JB thanked KM & ML for all their hard work with regards to the EHRS Accounts and KM asked for the 2020 accounts to be approved.

2020 accounts approved by Mr B Trainis; seconded by Mr R Brand

## **8. Approval of Auditors.**

Kevin Maddison advised that the Auditors for EHRS are Gerald Edleman & Co. JB advised that there was a question asking “ Why have the Audit fees doubled since 2019?” KM advised that Gerald Edleman have not had a fee increase, £15K was inclusive of VAT and was the same for 2019 and 2020.

The approval of Gerald Edelman & Co was proposed by Mr D Mitchell; seconded by Mr D Mendoza-Woolfson.

## **9. Subscription Proposal for 2022**

JB advised that it was felt for 2021 it would not have been correct to apply an increase in subscription as it was such a difficult year, the pandemic has hit hard. For 2022 there would have to be an increase to keep the level of services to a high standard along with the staffing requirements of EHRS.

The proposal is that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 the annual gross amount for family subscription is £990.00 and the annual gross single membership is £495.00.

The Special Projects Fund is to remain at the same rate as 2021 of £30.00 per annum gross for family membership and £15.00 per annum gross for single membership.

The Higher Rate taxpayers will have the same net cost to them to be identical to that of the Standard Rate taxpayers. The Honorary Treasurers to be additionally empowered to set reduced scale rates for the young adults (18-35 years).

The EHRS Lottery remains a voluntary option of £36.00 per annum with a monthly winner of £250.00

The Board of Deputies has a voluntary contribution of £15.00 per person, this rate is set by the BOD.

JB asked all attendees to approve the Subscription Proposal Approved; Mr J Harrod seconded by Mr S Garfinkel, there were no oppositions and no abstentions.

i. A question received asked what was the percentage of membership that donated to the BOD. Both JB & KM advised that as the BOD was a voluntary donation this was very often deleted by members paying their subscription, particularly those with financial difficulties. KM added that EHRS are now up to date with paying their donation to the BOD with a further £20K being sent the end of September. The meeting was further advised that the figures for 2021 were down on previous years and only £8K had been raised for BoD until the end of June 2021.

ii. KP asked if there had been an increase of members asking for a concession. JB confirmed that there had been an increase and there are in excess of 50% of members on a concession, which is not unusual for a community with an older demographic.

## **10. Rabbi's Proposal**

JB invited both Rabbi Mark and Rabbi Debbie to give their presentation and a slide show to the meeting. RMG advised at the Blue Sky Day there were lots of new ideas going forward, how members of the community can become more involved, along with being attractive for potential new members. The idea being to draw occasional shul goers into the community with interesting Services, events and programming that will attract a wider audience. RMG added that mental and physical health issues of our members need to be addressed and this is an area that EHRS are looking to do a lot of work in, for example the 'Let's Talk' programme.

Rabbi Debbie added that EHRS should be an extension of any Jewish home and all are welcome to EHRS, from any culture, diversity or age. There is programming suitable for all interests such as foraging and including family pets, there should be no exclusions. RMG added that the recent Sukkah event was so well attended by all generations that both the JC and the Jewish News wrote an article on how successful it was. Rabbi Mark & Rabbi Debbie advised that there are new 'together' groups being formed for whatever may be of interest for the community, such as Whiskey groups, foraging groups and the bereavement group which is proving to be so supportive to all those who already attend.

Rabbi Mark advised that as the members of EHRS are so wide spread it is even more important to have the programming, services and can-do attitude of the staff, lay readers, wardens and everyone else who makes EHRS the place where people want to be part of.

JB thanked both Rabbis for their presentation and all the hard work that they have done and opened the floor for any questions – there were none.

## **11. Any other Business**

i. Stephen Garfinkel asked if there were plans for a memorial service for Rabbi Kraft Z"L. Rabbi Mark advised that the Sefer Torah would be ready in the spring and that Shavout would be a good time of year for the memorial Service, the weather will be better and hopefully more members will feel happy to attend.

i. JB thanked the Administration team, Site Manager and his team along with the Security Guards for all their hard work during the past year

iii JB thanked all Honorary Officers and Council Members for their support during the past year.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

