

Minutes of the London Spiritual Mission AGM 14th June 2015

Committee present:

Gordon Smith, President; Jean Alexander, Vice President; Doreen Quinnell, Vice President; Chris Norris, Treasurer;

Sonia Thomas, Membership Secretary; Anne Thornton-Patterson: Church Secretary;

Committee Members: Mick Cutispoto, Mirna Cutispoto, Marie Elliott, Janice Dyson.

Record of Meeting

Last year's AGM minutes:

Minutes were unavailable for the 2014 AGM and were therefore not presented.

Presidents Address:

Gordon Smith addressed the congregation about his decision to accept the Presidency, his commitment to the LSM and the intention to run development courses for healing and mediumship.

Treasurers Report:

Chris Norris presented the Treasurer's report and accounts.

Anna Cannings asked that the accounts be provided in advance in future years and this was noted.

Re-election of officers:

Jean Alexander, Doreen Quinnell and Sonia Thomas duly resigned and offered themselves for re-election. All were unanimously re-elected.

AOB:

Preface

Various emails and letters were sent in raising AOB points for the AGM. Similar points had been raised by various members so it was decided to deal with each point rather repeat the same point and answer over and over. All emails and letters regarding the AGM have been recorded should access be required in the future.

Chris Norris went through the points raised as follows:

1. Questions were raised regarding the validity of the LSM rulebook. The validity of the rule book as the governing document for the LSM unincorporated association (The formal term for what we colloquially call the LSM) and its members is and always has been acknowledged by the committee. Although the trustees are governed by the separate trust deed and latterly also by The Charity Commission they also, and always have, acknowledged the rulebook as the governing document for the LSM unincorporated association.
2. There were queries about the appointment of Gordon Smith as president. The opportunity to have Gordon as President came up via conversation with one of the current trustees. This was thoroughly discussed at committee after Peter Geekie had resigned and it was unanimously agreed that this opportunity should be seized. It was unanimously agreed that Gordon should replace Peter and so Gordon was duly appointed as President of the LSM under rule 15 of the LSM rules. Under the same rule Gordon's appointment holds until the first AGM held after 29th June 2016 whereupon Gordon, as LSM President, must resign and, if willing, seek re-election under rule 7 at the next AGM held after that date.

3. The validity of the appointment of two Vice Presidents was questioned. This comes about as there is a lot of work to be done in the coming years as our new President outlined. It also follows the precedent of having two Secretaries recently. However, the committee had absolutely no wish to go against members wishes and it was proposed to take this forward in two ways. At next year's AGM we will propose a rule change to formally allow the appointment of two recognised posts excluding President. There was not time to do this correctly for this year's AGM as it falls under special business. So, at this AGM, members were asked to vote to allow the committee to have two Vice Presidents for the coming year only and to change the rules to formally allow this from the 2016 AGM onwards. The motion was carried by 45 votes to 7.
4. The point was raised that some incorrect letters inviting members to the AGM were sent out. It was intended to send letters to 4 types of members:
 - a. Life
 - b. Ordinary paid up
 - c. Ordinary but no payment yet received for this year
 - d. Lapsed members who have not paid fees for up to two years

Labels were created and letters created for each of categories a-d but unfortunately some letters were simply sent out with the wrong labels. Some of the letters were printed on existing headed stationery to avoid unnecessary waste and it was not spotted that the old secretary email address was listed. No other reasons have been found or needed and the committee sincerely apologised for the fact that this happened.

5. The question was raised - Who appointed the Trustees and who are they? The meeting was informed that Geoffrey Craggs, Corin Johnson, Philip Chambers and Doreen Quinell are the current trustees. Philip, Doreen and Corin were appointed by Geoffrey in accordance with the trust deed and legal requirements and in the same way that trustees had been appointed by existing trustees since the trust was originally formed.
6. There were a number of questions raised of the trustees. Since this was the AGM of the LSM unincorporated association and not a meeting of the trust these should be taken up with the trustees at a later date by anyone wishing to do so.
7. There were questions alluding to "rumours" anyone wishing to speak up about specific matters of "rumour" that can be dealt with at this AGM were requested to do so. Nothing was raised.
8. The current Mediums Secretary was confirmed as Anne Thornton-Patterson. It was decided by the committee that the work of the mediums secretary needed to be done by a standing committee member and also that it was unfair to expect Ann Burbedge to continue in the role. Fortunately, Anne Thornton Patterson volunteered and has done sterling work to ensure everything runs smoothly with regard to that aspect of the church.
9. Carol Wood proposed the reinstatement of regular devotional services at the church and the proposal was unanimously adopted.
10. Carol Wood proposed a vote of thanks. The committee warmly accepted the thanks of those present.