

Present:

Jnanacandra, Sinhendra, Saddhanandi, Saravantu, Parina, Amogharatna, Vidusi (guest), Subhadassi, Jnanadhara, Arthakusalin, Amalaketu, Arthamitra, Samacitta, Amoghavajra, Suryamati, Maitridasa, Aryapala, Jayaraja, Jnanavaca, Jvalamalini, Maniraja, Samantabhadi, Vassika, Arthavadin, Visuddhimati, Ratnaghosha, Satyapada, Viryapushpa, Dassini, Sujana, Uddyotani, Nayaka, Priyananda, Arthabandhu, Manigarbha, Upekshapriya, Rijupatha, Shantiprabha, Amalamati, Nandavajra (DT), Mokshini (DT – minutes), Munisha (DT),

Apologies

Suvannavira, Vaddhaka, Tejananda, Buddhasanti, Sobhanandi, Danapriya, Vajrasakhi, Vajradarshini, Keturaja, Vidyamala, Padmasimha, Sudarshini

1. Previous minutes and matters arising

Corrections – Vidyamala was present but listed under apologies
Minutes were otherwise accepted as correct

Matters Arising

Annual report and account

- 1) Appointment of alternative independent examiner completed
- 2) Public liability insurance – not researched: The ECA is a company limited by guarantee, so liability is reduced
- 3) Possibility of changing the accountant period: pending, waiting for start of new finance officer
- 4) Risk management: pending and waiting for new finance officer

Under 6) bookkeeper /finance officer post update: post was advertised in October, several applications received which were not deemed suitable. Plan to have post filled by end of month and start of work end of March 2016

7 e) Child protection and vulnerable adults – update: these policies are in process and have happened/will happen. Suggestion that in addition to policy there might be need for training at centres and help with implementation to implement at centres - seen as next step.

All other action points on main agenda.

2. Venues for future ECA meetings

In 2013 it was agreed to have all ECA at Adhithana for a 2 year trial period;
Only alternatives currently are Vajrasana and Padmaloka both available in summer and winter.

Based on results of survey, Proposals is that 1 in 4 meetings happen elsewhere other than at Adhithana – i.e. one very other year. I.e.:

- 2016 – both booked at Adhithana
- Jan 2017 at Adhithana
- Summer 2017 at Vajrasana

Agreed, with several abstentions

Request to take into account where the conventions are taking place when considering location of ECA meetings

3. Development Fund 2016 update

Development Fund budget 2016 confirmed as agreed at August 2015 ECA. Guaranteed level of funding is being released to grant receiving projects and Amalavajra is confident of raising a further £25,000 to allow full funding of grants.

A) International council sec support

ECA had some time ago agreed to contribute a third of support of the half-time post of the International Council secretary, a sum of £2,500. End of last year IC appointed a F/T sec, (Dharmamegha); request now is to contribute a third of fulltime post – ie £5000 in total

Proposal; to meet that cost for this year out of other income/unpaid bookkeeper post, and communicate that IC needs to formally request towards contribution for the post in 2017 if this is desired. (In long term this post may be funded through FD fund but this is a process of transition)

Proposal agreed

There was **arequest** for more joined-up thinking on appointing any new member of the team i.e. checking it out with all the movement teams, as it has implications for others e.g. for Adhithana; particularly if they need to live here.

4. Development Team report

Munisha, Amalavajra, Prajnaketu - report on their work during the course of the meeting

Other work DT has been involved in:

- International Urban Retreat – MK with TBCO and Munisha
- Weekends for Groups and Pioneers –2 x year
- Groups – DT completed a ‘Survey of Groups in Europe’ to find out what happens, what challenges they face and how the DT might support and help
- FDF – setting up the new charity and application process etc
- Successful Fundraising by Amalavajra - Bhante’s birthday appeal to finance production of Complete Works as well as for Translations Fund; the appeal to top-up Bhante’s ongoing support raised over the Aug 2015 OWE; and AV brought in additional funds for the College Appeal
- Planning for BAM 2016
- Secretarial and general admin work

Recent proposal: that DT is an Order only team to help maintain effectiveness and harmony of that meeting

Other members of the DT fulfilling other functions like FR assistant (who might be OMs or mitras) will not be part of the DT core team meeting

DT developing an ‘team ethos’ so anyone joining the team is clear of the way we are working, a broader expression of the principles of the way we work; in addition to having a legal contract

Suggestion to insure Amalavajra (cf. Windhorse used to insure Vajraketu) as he seems such a key asset to the Movement - **exec to consider.**

Request to have Business Plan for the ECA **in writing:** what do we think we are doing in the next 5 years, who we are employing and for how long, etc.

5. Pension provision and National Living Wage

Pensions: Guidance on new statutory requirements (UK) – these need to be known and chairs need to make decisions on how to act on that and on what level to set the pensions

National Living Wage: the legal obligation is that even if you are not an hourly rate employers trustees need to be able to demonstrate that this minimum level is paid. The only exemption is for people living in residential religious communities and working in a charity clearly linked to it. (The only other exception is *possibly* ministers of religion who are not considered ‘employees’ in the usual sense.)

6. Data security and website security

Update on new legislation on data security: A number lot of Centre websites are not very secure/ get hacked and then produce spam; as a result the service provider gets black-listed - all this quite a lot of work for the dharmachakra team.

Good web security and a competent website management is essential: if this is not in place the TBCO team are offering to manage Centres website; they request centres to contact them if there are any doubts about web security. The TBCO are aiming to do this free of charge; as far as possible.

New European legislation re the holding of databases - currently the indication is that this is not an issue, but might be in the future.

7. Minuting decisions taking earlier in the meeting

none

8. Communities Weekend 25-28 March - noted

9. AOBs:

a. Update on BAM/ Mokshini

b. Update on FDF /Nandavajra

- Name decided on - FutureDharmaFund
- Agreed the formation of a new charity as C. I. O./foundation model - trustees are the same as the membership; to be made up of up to 3 reps from each of ECA, Order office, College and IC; elected for three years in the first instance.

Current representatives:

ECA – Jnanvaca and Visuddhimati

College - Paramabandhu and Ratnadhareni

Order office - Lokeshvara

IC – Dhammarati

Branding process/logo design/website construction(not just for FDF but about encouraging greater giving in general as part of the culture change)/ developing of grant application process/ development of human resources - all underway,

Note that 2017 is the 50 -year anniversary and provides a context: stepping up our game and developing Triratna as a force for change in the world. This is also the theme of the conventions this year – ‘The Next 50 Years’. Launch of FDF at the combined convention.

Request for the website: to include facilities that can be produced in other languages to engage members of other language groups straight away.

Two start up gifts of £75K for FDF received to pay for the website and FR assistant.

c. Update on IC/Dassini and Amoghavajra

d. Proposed new exec member: Jvalamalini

This was agreed, with one abstention

10. Date of next ECA meetings

Sunday 28th August to Tuesday 6th September at Adhithana (topics for the meeting or items for the agenda to Nandavajra by Monday 6th June)

January 2017 @ Adhithana – dates TBC

Summer 2017 @ Vajrasana - dates TBC