

**DRAFT AGM Mins**

**11 July 2024** held at Hendon Hall

**Registered Charity Number: 1192337**

**Present**:David Clare (Chair), Esmond Rosen, Amir Ohadi, Monna Rizvi, Christina Spybey, Rev Shaun Sanders, Propa Rezwana Anwar, Suchita Rajadhyaksha, Foujan Jenner, Stuart Diamond, Rumela Kundu, Rev Ben Twumasi, Dr Husna Ahmad, William Cooper, Dr Karishma Koka, Father Eugene Curran

*Plus* Hilary Rosen Cllr C Stock, Cllr S Conway and others

**Apologies**

* 1. Apologies were received from the Deputy Lieutenant of Barnet, Mr Martin Russell; Sarah Sackman, MP; Dan Tomlinson, MP; David Pinto, MP; Councillor Barry Rawlings; Councillor Anne Clarke; Councillor Gurung; and James Holland from the Westminster interfaith Catholic community; Father Damien from the Greek Orthodox Church; Sukhjeen Kaur.
1. **Welcome and Salutations** by the Chair**.**
	1. The Chair of the Barnet Multifaith Forum opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction.
	2. The agenda for the meeting was largely based on the previous year's format, with minor adjustments made.
	3. The chair emphasized the importance of community engagement and invited guests and organizations to participate actively.
2. **Reflection** by Reverend Dr Julie Gittoes on the significance of Barnet Multi Faith Forum and the launch of a Faith Leaders Network.
	1. Reverend Dr Julie Gittoes emphasized the importance of the Barnet Multi Faith Forum in fostering friendship and solidarity among diverse faith communities.
	2. The upcoming launch of the Faith Leaders Network aims to support faith leaders in serving their communities and facilitating challenging conversations with grace and wisdom.
	3. Key areas of focus for the network include environmental commitments, youth engagement, cultural diversity, and community service initiatives.
3. There were **no conflicts of interest** declared.
4. The Worshipful The Mayor addressed the gathering highlighting the strength in the community and the role of the Barnet Multi Faith Forum.
5. The mins of the previous AGM werementioned as being passed in September 2023 Exec meeting.
6. Chair’s Annual Report presented as a slideshow
	1. David Clare presented a visual report showcasing the year's activities, highlighting the organization's achievements.
	2. The report included a slideshow that lasted approximately seven minutes and twenty seconds, reflecting an increase in content compared to the previous year.
	3. The visual elements emphasized the engagement and vibrancy of the events held throughout the year, making the information accessible and engaging for the audience.
	4. Highlights of various events and initiatives, including the impact of global events on local communities. Commencement of Youth Forum and Environmental Sub-group, including work with BarNetZero Campaign praised.
7. Video report of activities in the commencement of Youth Forum by Mahdi Ahmed.
8. Rev Ben Twumasi presented the Accounts. The Accounts and report were formally approved. Accounts will added to the website.

Two members of the attendees expressed appreciation for the simplicity and clarity of the report.

* 1. The discussion highlighted the need for a fundraising strategy to ensure financial stability and address unexpected expenses in future activities.
	2. Trustees and executives are encouraged to explore diverse funding sources to enhance the organization's financial resilience and support ongoing initiatives.
	3. Thank you to Ben for all of work as Treasurer, as he is stepping down from the role.

1. Election for Officers and executive members was reported by the Hon. Secretary Dr Karishma Koka
2. Nomination forms were made available on the website and emailed to attendees prior to the AGM.
3. All nominations for executive positions were uncontested, eliminating the need for an election.
4. The new executive members and trustees represent various faith communities within the borough, highlighting the forum's diversity.

*President* – Esmond Rosen

*Chair* – David Clare

*Vice-chairs* – Christina Spybey, Monna Rizvi

*Treasurer* – Stuart Diamond

*Secretary* – Dr Karishma Koka

*Executive members*
Suchita Rajadhyaksha, Foujan Jenner, Dr Husna Ahmad OBE, Amir Ohardi, Rumela Kundu, Father Eugene Curran, Paras Meisheri

Revd Ben was mentioned as Trustee, and not to be an exec member.

*Co-opted members*

William Cooper, Barnet Council; Elaine Jackson, Metropolitan Police; Jenny Osborne, CB Plus; Sukhjean Kaur, Inclusion Barnet; Reverend Helena Roulston, Sheffield Hallam University

1. Discussion on the future structure and development of the forum.
	1. The forum is exploring ways to build better connections and outreach to enhance community engagement.
	2. There is a proposal to establish a part-time administrative role to support the forum's operations and visibility.
	3. Discussions are ongoing regarding the structure of the executive team and membership to ensure effective governance and continuity.
2. Presentation on Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy by Karen Lingwood, Barnet Council, with Cllr Sara Conway
	1. Karen's presentation focused on a new project aimed at prevention and awareness regarding domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
	2. The project includes interactive workshops for community leaders and volunteers to raise awareness about domestic abuse and available support resources.
	3. It emphasizes early intervention and prevention strategies, aiming to educate the community on recognizing signs of abuse and how to report it.
	4. The initiative also includes support groups for survivors, particularly targeting female survivors and mothers, to help them and their children cope with the aftermath of violence.
3. Thanks were given to Theresa Villiers MP for her continuous support for BMFF over the year
4. Thanks were given to the Revd Shaun Saunders for all his years of work and support on the Exec going back 2012, for his enthusiasm and his photography. A certificate was presented in gratitude along with a photographic BMFF mug.
5. President Esmond Rosen addressed the audience and concluded the formalities
6. It was agreed that the executive were given the authority to proceed and to put into practice the review proposals when agreed by the executive.
7. A discussion followed mediated by the Chair David Clare.

The Theme of the discussion panel will be*'A Multi Faith Journey - sharing in a desire for strong, harmonious and peaceful communities'*

*Panel included Cllr Sara Conway, Monna Rizvi and Stuart Diamond*

*A recording of the discussion will be prepared for inclusion on the BMFF website.*

1. AGM closed and thanks given to all that attended.