

**DRAFT Minutes of the
BMFF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held at 7.00pm on Thursday 11th July 2019
Barnet Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG**

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

- Esmond Rosen warmly welcomed everyone present. He then invited Elizabeth Fewkes (Near Neighbours) and the Mayor, Caroline Stock, to share some thoughts with the audience before official business began.
- Several apologies had been received, including those from MPs Theresa Villiers, Matthew Offord and Mike Freer, Cllrs Barry Rawlings, Alison Moore and others.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM (5th July 2018)

- These were read out and approved.
- There were no matters arising
- Congratulations were expressed to Trevor Alexander on having being presented with the JVN Heartbeat of the Community Award and to Es Rosen on being invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace celebrating the contribution of the Forum to interfaith work and community cohesion.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- As attached. The Report was approved unopposed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- As attached. The Report was approved unopposed.
- The Treasurer announced that he would be "invoicing" organisations for donations in future, although donations remain entirely voluntary.

5. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- As attached. The list of nominations for the Executive, together with Co-optees, was read out and passed unopposed.

6. AOB

- Kate Salinger congratulated the Forum on its largest ever AGM turnout, though urged them to be aware of fire safety regulations as the room was relatively full
- Elizabeth Fewkes reported on a series of meetings called Real People, Honest Talk being organised by Near Neighbours in Finchley, Burnt Oak, Colindale and West Hendon over the next few weeks. These will culminate in a celebratory event at the Town Hall on 14th November (during Interfaith Week) to which the Forum was warmly invited.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and declared the AGM closed. He then invited Trevor Alexander to give a presentation about the past and forthcoming activities of the Forum.

Trevor began by presenting visual of highlights of the previous year and reported that an Annual Report is now available on the BMFF website. He referred to the newly-formed Forum which has begun to meet under the leadership of Imam Qureshi, and whose views will be fed into the Action

- Tahseen Mehar on plans for the Youth Forum
- Christina Spybey on the Loneliness Project
- David Clare on the Forum's digital communications plan
- Rabbi Newman on the Climate Action Group and the role BMFF can play in it
- Asmina Remtulla on various wellbeing projects in which members were invited to take part
- Deacon Anthony Clark on our role in the working party on end of life care
- Hadiya Masieh on plans for a Winter Festival this year to celebrate the different faiths and cultures in the Borough and avoid competing events being held on the same date

Es Rosen then invited Imam Qureshi to read out the following statement that had been unanimously adopted by the BMFF Executive on 20th June 2019:

Against the background of an increase in reported hate crimes, hate rhetoric and actual terror incidents, directed towards any faith or belief in this country or around the world, we in the Barnet Multi Faith Forum (BMFF) resolve to:-

- *advocate to overcoming religious illiteracy, prejudice, discrimination and bigotry wherever and whenever it occurs, by means of education, knowledge and communication.*
- *ensure we continue to promote greater social and community cohesion, human dignity and understanding in Barnet and elsewhere*
- *recognise the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.*

The Chair then invited the guest speaker, David Hampshire, to address the audience on the subject of religious illiteracy, following which Barbara Carter proposed a vote of thanks and the meeting closed.