

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Marlborough Brandt Group

Held Thursday 23 March 2017, 6.30 at the MBG Office

Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janneke Blokland (JB); Chair of Meeting welcomed members • 34 people present • JB asked members to agree agenda – members accepted • A moment of silence was held for 2 friends of MBG who have died recently –member Janet Snellgrove and TARUD Director Sandang Bojang
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 apologies recorded and read
AGM Minutes 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last AGM Minutes were unanimously approved by the members and signed by JB.
Overview of 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Maurice (NM) thanked the Trustees for the invitation to speak on behalf of the current Director Karen Bulsara (KB) who is on compassionate leave. • NM expressed his thanks for being able to speak at the turning point of MBG and thanked the Trustees for the impressive Annual Report. • NM gave thanks to (KB) for the professional job she had done in carrying out the task given to her by the Trustees; that that of undertaking an objective and comprehensive assessment of MBG. A full copy of NM's report is attached to these minutes.
Presentation of the Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa Ardley (TA) Treasurer to MBG presented the accounts to members. • These were approved by the Trustees at their Board meeting on 20 March 2017. • Copies of the full report were available at the AGM; should members require a personal copy, these are available on the MBG website or could be obtained by request. • TA highlighted key points made in the Financial Overview in the published Annual Report; in particular that expenditure for administrative and running costs exceeds income for these purposes; membership income has halved and the charity has become reliant on previously accumulated funds; the issue of the viability of the charity has therefore had to be addressed by the Trustees. • TA asked that, the members continues to appoint accountants and auditors Munro Audit Ltd. Unanimous approval given.
Election of Trustees	<p>Retiring Trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Quarendon • Theresa Ardley • Sarah Giles • Geoffrey Findlay • Trevor Kearley • George Cooper • Lilli Loveday • Janneke Blokland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Davies (co-opted) <p>CH questioned if retiring trustees could vote. JB confirmed they could as they are members of the charity.</p> <p>Trustees seeking re-election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilli Loveday: Nominated by Nick Maurice; Seconded by Ann Yates Members voted: 49 in favour. 19 against: Lilli was duly elected. • Janneke Blokland: Nominated by Anna Quarendon; seconded by Anita Bew Members voted: 46 in favour, 23 against: Janneke was duly elected. <p>New Trustee previously co-opted by the Retiring Trustees and seeking re-election</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Davies: nominated by Chris Loveday, seconded by Sarah Giles Members voted: 43 in favour, 19 against; Alex was duly elected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six members voting on the appointment of new Trustees exercised proxy votes on behalf of other members unable to attend the AGM, as set out in the list appearing at the end of these minutes
Introduction of the future direction of MBG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Davies (AD) reflected on how he became involved with MBG - how the new Trustees view the way forward, how the new transition might look (some of which had been referred to by NM in his report); how he, Alex was a 'child' of the link, having been involved in summer trips; a former member of the Executive Committee; involved in setting up the business project and involved with Gunjur pre-school. Looking forward, the New Trustees would be looking to work with TARUD, Concern Universal and Disability Africa and to continue with the Lent lectures; AD referred to Lilli's handout from Gunjur (copy attached to minutes) and how the changes in Gunjur (new director of TARUD, new President and likely re-entry into the Commonwealth) gave optimism for the new way forward for MBG. AD felt this is a time to restructure and to be open and welcoming to members. He spoke of three open meetings a year with an invite to all interested members; the broad plan for five years being to utilise the legacy, spending the money primarily in Gunjur.
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Loveday: Are the three new trustees modelling the future MBG on a particular charity (for example the Kempson Rosedale Trust)? • Response from AD and JB – adopting a model more akin to how MBG was founded; wanting to be open; to continue the fund raising side through the concerts at St Peter's Church and the Lent lecture, with continued assistance from NM. Trustees will look to good practice in other charities. • Sue Webber - applauded the courage of the Trustees to go through the process of streamlining MBG, and delighted that younger

people have taken this on; very positive about the future but concerned about the global education side of MBG and questioned whether there was a way forward here.

Response from AD.

- The decision to close the office was a difficult one to make for reasons outlined in the Annual Report and reiterated at the meeting;
 - However, in looking towards the future it was stated that there are things the Trustees are unable to do at the present time regarding global education;
 - The Trustees are not changing the Articles of MBG;
 - They would like to keep global education however, it cannot be done, in the way it is currently, being carried out with paid staff and the support of an office, notwithstanding that the salaries for WGEC staff were financed through grants and additional global education work; in the past MBG has at times had to support a budget deficit for WGEC in some of its grant work, and has always provided the salaries for the admin officer, (with the exception of five hours dedicated to WGEC and paid through WGEC Core) finance and office manager and director in addition to meeting office and running overheads. (A breakdown of these figures prepared by TA appears further below).
 - The work carried out by WGEC is very good; however the Trustees are concerned to use the legacy directly in Gunjur where the greatest impact would be felt;
 - This can be managed as a small group of Trustees without the added overheads of maintaining an office and employing staff;
 - without the office support staff MBG could not continue as a platform for WGEC as it currently is
 - The future MBG wishes to continue the link between Marlborough and Gunjur
- Cristina Bennett: - stated she was encouraged by what has been said but from a global education perspective, not thinking in sentimental terms but given the context of world global education feels that work being done by WGEC is not being championed; feels that the continuation of this has not been considered and asked about the costs of WGEC.

Response by JB

- JB reiterated that consideration has been given; however the final decision comes down to the cost of maintaining staff; overheads etc. as previously outlined;
- JB: Members should reflect back to KB's report, in particular with respect to MBG being too broad in what it tries to do with very few active volunteers and a shrinking and aging membership to run these activities.
- AD stressed that staff had been included in the strategy days where the decisions were made to slim down MBG and that the process has been transparent and inclusive. Caroline Harmer

(CH) (staff member for WGEC) disagreed with this.

- JB referenced a question written to Trustees by a member, Susan Suchopar (SS) concerning the cost for MBG to enable WGEC to operate and asked TA to speak to the body. (Note that SS asked three questions in advance, two were answered in the wider debate and this third raised here).
- TA explained intention to respond to this question following questions from the floor but could do so now. Explanation given of fixed and variable costs to MBG to run the office and what proportion could be deemed WGEC costs; this was based on principles agreed a few years back by the Finance Officer in carrying out a similar task. 48% costs could be attributed to WGEC excluding any of the cost for employing a paid director, which arguably should be included. TA explained where WGEC core income comes from; how grants were restricted to specific projects; that some money is transferred to WGEC core as money towards salary; money transferred to MBG core for overheads based on a fixed percentage 8 or 10%.
- The following is a summary of figures for **2016** given verbally at the meeting:

WGEC at start of year [note that these funds assume no 48% contribution made in 2015]	£7,800
WGEC income	
Additional schools work	£4,330
School memberships	£486
Donation (Volunteer work)	£425
Trade Roots project	£6,635
Arkleton Trust Vibe Challenge Project	£2,240
Commonwealth Project	0
Total income in 2016 for WGEC core	£14,116
WGEC salary costs	£17,455
WGEC cost to MBG 48% overheads	£14,148
Total	£31,603
Balance	-£,9687
Income from Commonwealth Club project and Trade Roots in January 2017	£12,854
Balance	£3,167

Income to and from MBG for projects 2016

To MBG from projects	
Vibe Challenge (Arkleton Trust)	£1,920
Trade Roots	£4,782 over 2 years
Commonwealth Club	£1,467
Total	£8,169

Income from MBG to support projects	
Trade Roots	£1,400
Vibe Challenge	£1,300
Total	£2,700

(CH) disagreed with these figures. TA indicated they were taken from the 2016 accounts.

- Ray Jones (RJ) stated that he understood why MBG could not be a hosting facility for global education; he explained his background as previous Chair of MBG and understanding of MBG and WGEN history. He asked if another hosting facility had been considered and offered to support WGEN with his contacts.
 - It was stated that this idea had been discussed with CH; that Karen Bulsara had arranged a meeting for CH with an external consultant.
 - RJ offered to facilitate this further and would be willing to talk to CH after the meeting.
 - Discussion ensued. Anna Quarendon (AQ) thanked the new Trustees for taking on the responsibility for the future of MBG and for making difficult but necessary decisions. AQ commented that without their willingness to do this, many members would be dismayed not just that WGEN faced closure but that the whole of the organisation would be coming to an end.
 - CH stated that she felt MBG has let WGEN down; that WGEN had been integral to MBG since 1993 and that she CH; has had 10 years with WGEN and is proud of what has been achieved; thinks the whole situation has been handled badly and that the Trustees have not been supportive of WGEN.
 - Sarah Giles (SG), a Trustee explained that all must recognise the capacity of the volunteers who run MBG and what their capabilities are against the current financial climate and that the Trustees had to make the decision to reduce the number of activities - MBG had become too broad.
 - AQ stated that it was time for MBG members to look forward and made a recommendation for WGEN to take RJ's idea forward to see if global education in Wiltshire could continue.
 - JB reiterated thanks made by NM in his report especially to the paid staff:
 - Karen Bulsara
 - Caroline Harmer
 - Sarah Lively
 - Emma Henderson
- And to the volunteers:
- Stephanie Dale
 - Anita Bew
 - Steve Atyeo
 - Darren Bew
 - All Executive committee

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa Ardley • Trustees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB reiterated that all would be welcome to attend future meetings and thanks to NM for his words of encouragement particularly when difficult decisions have had to be made. • JB thanked the members for their continued support.
	The meeting then closed

Attached: NM report and Lilli Loveday report from Gunjur

Minutes prepared by Theresa Ardley
and agreed with the outgoing and continuing Trustees

March 2017

Appendix: Apologies were received from the following as at 6:20 pm 23-03-17.
Names in brackets indicate the appointed proxy for voting purpose:

Abi Wright (Caroline Harmer)
Adam Fairweather (Anita Bew)
Alan Davies (Anita Bew)
Andy Goodchild (Steve Atyeo)
Annabel Fairweather (Anita Bew)
Anne & Roger Ambrose
Barney and Rachel Rosedale (Nick Maurice)
Bridget & Jasper Selwyn
Caroline Cunningham (Anita Bew)
Caroline Varney (Anita Bew)
Daniel Cunningham (Anita Bew)
Emily Atyeo (Cristina Bennett)
Gordon & Angela Hutt
Ian Marks (Anita Bew)
Ian Wright (Caroline Harmer)
Jacqui Grainger (Caroline Harmer)
Jan Polack
Joyce White
Julia Ellis
Julia Wilkinson (Cristina Bennett)
Justine Norman (Anita Bew)
Kate Maurice (Nick Maurice)
Ken Lomax (Caroline Harmer)
Kevin Smith (Caroline Harmer)


Lilli Loveday (George Cooper)
Lord Judd
Lynda Mansall (Caroline Harmer)
Mary Watts (Caroline Harmer)
Michael & Kay Cripps
Michael Maude
Mr. D Morris (Caroline Harmer)
Ms S Wright (Caroline Harmer)
Nigel & Susan Monson
Odette Chandler (Caroline Harmer)
Pauline Berryman
Peter Dunford (Caroline Harmer)
Peter Schooling (Anita Bew)
Richard Draper (Anna Quarendon)
Rob Hawkins (Anita Bew)
Rosemary Davies (Anita Bew)
Sally Lomax (Caroline Harmer)
Sarah Adams (Caroline Harmer)
Susan Goodchild (Cristina Bennett)
Susan Suchopar
Tim Freeman (Anita Bew)
Trevor Kearley (Nick Maurice)
Veronica Gibbs (Steve Atyeo)
Viv Sherman (Caroline Harmer)
William Leabeter (Caroline Harmer)

The following sent apologies however were not recorded until after the close of the AGM: TA checked incoming emails until a few minutes prior to the start of the AGM.


Chez Dunfois (Caroline Harmer)
Gavin Thompson (Caroline Harmer)
Hannah Wright (Caroline Harmer)

The new Trsutees confirmed their willness to act following their election at the AGM.


I, Alexander Davies, am willing to act as a Trustee of the Marlborough Brandt Group.

Signature:  Date: 07-04-2017 Place: Marlborough.

I, Elizabeth Loveday, am willing to act as a Trustee of the Marlborough Brandt Group.

Signature:  Date: 07-04-2017 Place: Marlborough.

I, Janneke Blokland, am willing to act as a Trustee of the Marlborough Brandt Group.

Signature:  Date: 7th April 2017 Place: Marlborough