



Minutes of the Marlborough Brandt Group Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom 08/12/2020

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alex Davies (AD) welcomes the members and guests of the Marlborough Brandt Group who are present. The other Trustees James Busby and David Johnson introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from the following members: Janneke Blockland, Mike Polack, Jan Polack, Rosemary Davies, Phillip Bunton, Anita Bew, Nick Hunt, Lord Judd and Penny Thornton.

2. Agreement of Agenda

The agenda was agreed.

3. Approval of Last AGM Minutes

The previous AGM minutes were approved and signed. AD confirmed actions from last year's report: an update to MBG website and imagery has not taken place but we are continuing to slim down website to increase relevancy and imagery will be checked for best practice in 2021. AD confirmed that we did follow up on Anna's feedback from the 2018 trip but that those changes will be reflected in 2021's trips due to the postponement of the 2020 trips. MBG will continue to produce a physical end of year report so all members receive it. AD will add a 2020 preface for the 2019 document and print this. A printed document is also helpful to give to all volunteers and to distribute in Gunjur.

4. Chair's Report

The meeting started with a remembrance of MBG founder Mankamang (Manky) Touray. Dr Nick and AD both said words reflecting their time working with Manky and the vision and leadership he brought to linking.

AD summarised the 2019 annual report. AD highlighted the grants strategy taken in 2020 as to increase the amount MBG distributed to ensure the long-term viability of our partner charities reflecting the impact of COVID-19 on the charities and communities we support in Gunjur. AD confirmed that MBG remains in a stable financial situation despite the increased spending. Where possible MBG has looked to secure matched funding, for example giving Disability Africa £10,000 and securing a further £10,000 each from two other organisations.

5. Treasurer's Report and signed accounts

Proposer for approval of 2019 accounts: Nick Maurice; Peter Webber seconded.
The 2019 accounts we approved.

6. Position of Trustees

It was confirmed that Janneke Blokland is standing down as a trustee and the group acknowledged how grateful they were for her work.

As is required by the MBG Constitution 2014, article 3.5, one third or nearest number of Trustees must retire at each AGM, those longest in service first. Given the drop to three trustees MBG looked for the re-election of all trustees: Alex Davies, James Busby (JB) and David Johnson (DJ).

AD was duly re-elected as Chair as proposed by Angela Hutt and seconded by Sue Webber, all in favour no abstentions.

JB was duly re-elected as Trustee as proposed by Sue Webber and seconded by Alex Davies, all in favour no abstentions.

DJ was duly re-elected as Trustee as proposed by James Busby and seconded by Gordon Hutt, all in favour no abstentions.

Nick Maurice suggested finding a suitable trustee from the Marlborough area. AD agreed, JB was our Marlborough resident. There is an open invitation for new Trustees and a request to the membership to suggest anyone who may be interested.

7. 2020 updates and future projects funding

AD confirmed that MBG will continue working with our supported charities in Gunjur in 2021 and hope they return to normal soon. AD confirmed that there are four St. James's Place trips planned for April 2021 but these will probably be pushed to November 2021.

Nick Maurice gave update on TTV, though he has stepped back from the charity, and confirmed that there are no plans for trips in 2021.

8. Questions & Any Other Business

AD confirmed that we paid all Gambian support contracts, wages and accommodation in 2020 despite the planned trips to Gunjur being postponed.

Angela Hutt asked whether members still pay an annual sub, AD confirmed that this is the case and membership income is around £3,000 pa.

Gordon Hutt asked if we still have contact with Bristol Gambia group. AD confirmed they were involved with training and material reviews.

AD confirmed five volunteers from SJP have helped with the gift-aid process, the 2017 claim has been submitted and around £1,400 received. 2018, 2019 and 2020 claims are ready to be submitted, AD gave thanks to the volunteers for their support.

AD confirmed that the Exploring Islam in Gunjur booklet is being recreated word for word in new digital format for a small cost to enable continued high-quality printing, and that the images are being updated where required. AD highlighted that the document is best-practice and was well ahead of its time when it was originally produced. AD reiterated the hope that TTV will take on the updating of this document into a Faith in The Gambia booklet for any volunteer heading to The Gambia. Nick Maurice suggested Chris Huer who originally created booklet could provide additional support. AD agreed.

Sue Webber complimented the 2019 report.

No further questions nor Any Other Business.

The meeting ends at 7:10PM