

Summary of the Council Meeting 9th February 2009

In the Chair: Alan Gershlick

Present: Jeffrey Barcan, Simon Belson, Brian Burns, Sammy Cohen, Michael Franks, Leon Murray, Barbara Newman, Michael Nelkin, Geoffrey Pepper, Marilyn Salt, Stephen Salt, Ronald Shinegold, Allan Silver, Derek Silverstone, Norman Zetter

Also in attendance: Rabbi Bar, General Manager, Janice Steel,

Apologies: Marie Bauer

The meeting opened with a discussion over Council minutes. It was agreed that in future Council minutes will be approved by Council and that there will be a more concise version for publication on our website.

Comments were made about the income from Functions. The President requested that a statement of income should be circulated to all Council members. The Treasurer reminded all that members of Council are trustees of SWHC and are therefore they are also liable for losses incurred on an event.

The Chair of Functions stated that she would like to know about all functions being planned so that an offer of help and assistance could be made.

The Treasurer was congratulated after he switched our insurance policy to Norwich Union (Aviva) which gave us better cover with a reduction on the premium paid last year.

Rabbi's Report

The Rabbi had visited the Youth Club and the children were delighted to see him.

The Rubin's Sefer Torah is complete except for the last few lines as per normal and is now in safe keeping with SWHC.

The community Sefer Torah is ready to be ordered now that funding is complete.

The plan is to have a welcome party for both the Rubin and the community Sefer Torah.

Establishing service on Shabbat for the children and youth is a concern to Council. The monthly toddler service is still active and now Nigel Rosehill has started a children's service.

Weekday morning and evening services are a concern as it is becoming harder to get a Minyan unless the same people are called upon time after time. Council members were reminded that for many years now they are obligated to attend after Council had approved unanimously the proposition that Council members must attend at least once a month. The President wanted the matter referred back to the Religious Services sub-committee and he would have further discussions with the Executive.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that we had £89,000 in the bank, of which £25,000 is for restricted funds. This left us with £64,000 in the general funds. He is confident that this amount will last us through to May/June when this year's subscriptions will start coming in. A five year plan was tabled but the President wanted discussion to be held over to next month when the Council meet to discuss finance.

Development of the Synagogue site.

The President had received an email from architects, they had had a satisfactory meeting with the planners and things had now gone back to Estuary Housing.

AGM

The President announced that he was standing for another term. The Treasurer announced that he also was standing for another term.

The proposition to abolish the position of Secretary was withdrawn and there will be a vacant position of Secretary to fill. The future position of Secretary will now be referred to the Rules and Regulations Sub-committee. Their findings will come before Council to approve and then be put to a future AGM.

Board of Deputies Report

The BoD report was tabled. No further comments were recorded.

Membership

There had been no meetings of the sub-committee for a while.

There were three outstanding issues hampering the sub-committee from getting new members:

- (1) The agreement with Melvin Hertog of the United Synagogue has not been implemented.
- (2) An article needs to be published in the Community Voice.
- (3) Need to advertise SWHC on the website to encourage families to move here.

The Council approved a proposition that "Subject to the discretion of the Treasurer, parents must pay at least one year's membership fees in advance of a child's Bar/Bat-Mitzvah." If this is not complied with then the child will only be allowed to say a brachah.

Building Report

Spare sets of keys for both 59 and 43 Finchley Road are needed to be kept in a safe for insurance purposes.

Curtains for 43 Finchley Road were supplied on a non-profit basis. The family involved in supplying the curtains are to be sent a thank you letter for their generosity.

The state of the windows in the Ladies Gallery is being investigated. There may be a possibility of getting them repaired with the help of some CST monies.

The heating is only operating on one side of the Ladies Gallery. This is being investigated.

Mikvah

All Rabbi Bar's requirements have been completed. However the Rabbi wants to clean out the water tanks one more time before the Mikvah is used again.

Functions Report

The Black and White ball made a profit of just under £1000. People attending enjoyed themselves and it was a successful night.

The Menorah raised £900 in sponsorship. Both Southend Mayor and David Amess MP attended.

The Musical Soiree raised over £1100. The Functions Committee are grateful to Georgina Baum who organised the function.

It was reported to Council that a projector had found on the internet for £850 and would try to purchase this. The idea was to have a film club.

Future Events:

Yom Ha'Shoah, where there will be a showing of a film. Entrance will be free of charge but a request for donations will be made.

Council agreed that envelopes on seats, was the best way to ask for a donation.

For Yom Ha'atzmaut, Elan the entertainer from the Black & White ball was to team up with Shosh and possibly Laura for an Israeli musical evening, food possibly prepared by Sass or if not Tony Ansell.

Council were reminded of the MDA meeting – Solidarity with Israel, 25th Feb 2009, and Council was asked to support the event.

Possible future events:

Abba evening

A JC style questions evening

Ballroom dancing

Lunch with Judge Dawn Freedman

Lunch with Peter Levy ex Chair of the JC

Kashrut

Council was informed that the outlet in Hamlet Court Road would no longer be supplying bread. However new premises in Leigh-on-Sea have been found and they are now supplying bread on Friday only. It is hoped that the new outlet will expand to offer other kosher products and discussions are ongoing over Pesach supplies. Council agreed that the new outlet should be publicised in the weekly leaflet and a re-run of the e-mail should be arranged.

Matters of Note

Jewish Care has approached SWHC about running a series of workshops and using our Talmud Torah. Council are happy for further discussions with Jewish Care on this subject and raised no objections.

Correspondence

A list of recipients of condolence letters and Mazeltov letters written by the President during the past month was read out.

A thank you letter had been received from Dave Ramet concerning the CST Shabbat.

There being no there business, the meeting closed at 11:30pm.