

**Network of Engaged Buddhists
Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: 8 March 2009

Place: Buddha Vihara Temple, Kings Bromley

Present: Joyce Edmond Smith, Pippa Bobbett (Maitrisara), Claire Martin, Sally Ramsden, Sheila Shaffer, Phil Henry, Ken Jones, Hamish Downer.

Apologies: Modgala, Guy Malkerson, Melissa Meek.

Item		Action
1	<p>Membership Secretary's Report There are currently 189 members and 204 members of NEBSangha.</p>	
2	<p>Treasurer's Report The figures which had been circulated previously by Claire were discussed. The reason why there is a discrepancy between the membership income and number of members is that there are a number of life members, complimentary members and libraries etc. There are some outstanding bills totalling £901.79, so the bottom line is actually £2,188.32.</p> <p>There have been some large capital outlays this year, namely for the redesign of the logo, website and Indra's Net. The budget for this was set at £1,500 at the 2007 AGM.</p> <p>It was noted that the current membership income is not covering the costs of Indra's Net. Suggestions include: subscription on a dana basis; switching to standing orders. This is to be discussed further at Chagford. Claire and Maitrisara will bring proposals to the AGM.</p> <p>It was agreed to change the back account from Nationwide to the Cooperative Bank. Claire will arrange relevant paperwork.</p>	<p>CM / M, Chag.</p> <p>CM</p>
3	<p>NEB & Sustainable Activism Maitrisara is waiting to hear back from a £1,400 funding application submitted to the "Face to Face and Side by Side" fund.</p> <p>Maitrisara circulated a paper about an application for £10,000 to Awards for All, which was discussed. It was agreed that Maitrisara should take this forward. Phil and Claire offered to help with the application if necessary.</p>	<p>M (CM, PH)</p>
4	<p>Website</p>	

	<p>The cost of hosting the new website will increase by £100 a year to £123. The re-design costs were £650, of which £100 has already been paid. Samudradaka has put in approximately 15 hours extra work, and has asked if payment for this would be possible. In light of the current financial situation, it was agreed to revisit this at Chagford.</p>	Chag.
5	<p>Buddhafield</p> <p>The dates this year are 15-19 July, and team for this year will be: Maitrisara, Joyce, Shantiprabha and someone else, tbc. Ken and Sheila may attend for a day, as guest speakers. It was previously agreed to pay the £100 ticket cost for a 5th member of the team; this is not an issue if there is not a 5th person.</p> <p>Maitrisara commented that she was not sure whether NEB has found its “niche” at Buddhafield. She is considering offering the site crew team a month long Dharma retreat on the theme of Engaged Buddhism. This idea was supported, as long as it does not involved too much work for Maitrisara when combined with being on the NEB team during the festival. Maitrisara will keep the committee posted on how this develops.</p>	M
6	<p>Non-payment of taxes</p> <p>Maitrisara and Sally updated the meeting on their involvement in this campaign. Both were withholding 10% of their taxes which are used for weapons. At this stage, both have paid, after action against them was threatened. This is the “story so far”, and it was agreed to follow this up as part of further discussion of “soft strategies” at Chagford.</p>	Chag.
7	<p>NEB Sanga moderation</p> <p>Joyce reported the comments she has received via NEBSangha on this issue. A variety of options were discussed, and it was agreed that there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two lists, one for discussion, and one for announcements; Hamish will help set this up • a Co-Moderator; Joyce will invite Jeff Waistall to carry out this role • guidance notes, emphasising right speech etc.; Joyce will write a draft and circulate it; the final copy will go on the website 	JES (HD) JES JES M
8	<p>Gaza</p> <p>Following the earlier discussion, the following action points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEB will offer to host a similar style discussion on the topic at Buddhafield. Maitrisara to raise with the team 	M

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a special Indra's Net on this topic in the next but one issue • NEB will investigate "tripling", linking Buddhist groups in the UK, Israel and Palestine; Sally, Sheila and Joyce will investigate in the first instance • A donation of £25 will be made to the DEC appeal 	SR, SS & JES CM
9	<p>Reprint of "What is Engaged Buddhism?" It had previously been agreed not to reprint this; however, given that requests are still coming in, and the money this has raised, it was agreed to reprint it after all.</p> <p>Ken has received a quote for £784 for 300 copies. Hamish and Phil will also get quotes. The environmental record of the printers will be taken into consideration. The new copies will need to have the new logo, and the text will need to be redesigned in Word, which Phil will arrange. Sally and Maitrisara will send photos to Phil for the new cover.</p>	HD & PH SR & M PH
10	<p>Alliance of Religion and Conservation Joyce talked through the paper she had circulated prior to the meeting. This is essentially a profile raising exercise. It was agreed to support it, and to submit an application. Any suggestions to be submitted to Joyce by 22nd March.</p>	JES
11	<p>New Economic Foundation Ken had circulated information about this prior to the meeting. They are looking for references for their Centre for Wellbeing. It was agreed to put something in the next Indra's Net, to continue to circulate information via NEBSangha, and to create a link from the new website.</p>	M
12	<p>T-shirts Claire will look at the cost of printing individual t-shirts for committee members or to sell at Buddhafield.</p>	CM
13	<p>Banner It was agreed to commission a new, cloth banner. Joyce will follow this up. The budget is £150.</p>	JES
14	<p>Donation to Amrita Dhammika's memorial Joyce read out the letter which had been circulated by email. It was agreed to donate £50 via Amida UK. Claire will process it.</p>	CM
15	<p>European Buddhist Union It was agreed to affiliate at Chagford. The membership is £25. Claire will follow up the paperwork with Modgala, subject to</p>	CM

	Maitrisara checking the Chagford minutes. There is a meeting at Taraloka between 24 th and 27 th September, which Joyce will attend.	M JES
16	<p>Chagford</p> <p>Ken has circulated the blurb. Phil will need to fill in the administrative details. The issue of costs was discussed, and the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a non-refundable deposit • The food budget will be £12 per person • The concession rate will be increased <p>Phil will come up with a proposal and circulate by the 15th March.</p>	PH
17	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>A. Colours of new logo</p> <p>Sally noted that the plastic banner showed brighter colours than expected. Subtler colours will be finalised; Sally will communicate with the designer.</p> <p>B. Membership</p> <p>This will go on the agenda for Chagford. Proposals to be circulate beforehand.</p>	SR Chag.