**Final Minutes for the South London Interfaith Group 1st Committee Meeting held on Thursday 31st March at 14.15 to 16.00 hours at The Friends Meeting House, Roupell Park, Lambeth**

1. **Welcome.** Phil Cotgreave de Rahman (Secretary) welcomed all present to the open Committee meeting.

**Apologies** were recorded as have been given by Balbir Singh (Sikh); Rizwan Alibhai (Shi’a Muslim); Sheila Wharton and Ebrahim Rashid.

Committee members present: Alan Gadd (Anglican Church); Rashid Lather (Sunni Muslim);

Late arrival: Thelma Lewis.

**People present and faith tradition recorded**: Cheryl Gordan (Anglican church); Anton Bartick (Orthodox Jew); Ivor Smith-Cameron (Anglican); Thecla Geraghty (Quaker); Mohammed Iqbal Laher (Sunni Muslim); Soma Boodrum (Hindu); Tini Brodie (Anglican): John and Tima Beckett (Honorary Members); David Standley (Catholic Christian); Gisela Robinson and Sally Smith (Anglican Christian).

1. **Review of minutes of Thursday 28th January 2016 and Matters arising & ratification with or without amendments of the previous minutes.** The minutes were accepted a true record except two Matters Arising by Alan Gadd. However,unfortunately confusion arose due to the fact that two sets of minutes for the same meeting had been circulated by Rashid Laher and Phil Cotgreave de Rahman. This caused some confusion regarding two of the three matters arising items.

**Matters Arising:**

1. Clarity was given by Alan Gadd that the minutes related to the 3rd Meeting of the SLIFG committee Meeting held on the 28th January 2016 and that it was not the 2nd meeting.
2. Alan Gadd commented that he had no recollection of the name given by a friend identified as ‘Hilda’ in the minutes was called by that name. Rashid Laher accepted this and offered to amend the minutes.
3. Item number 7 of the above Agenda item. David Standley raised the issue that it seemed that perhaps there are concurrent running forums with the same remit.
4. **Review of Actions agreed of the meeting of Thursday 28th January 2016**

Phil Cotgreave de Rahman identified the following:

1. A volunteer was still needed to create a Core SLIFG calendar. Alan Gadd stated that in the previous year SLIFG had not had its own calendar of events as such but had collaborated with other groups and advertised these on its website (SLIFG). Alan made the recommendation that going forward we record/advertise other Faith Tradition events/anniversaries.
2. Sarah Thorley had offered to update her 2007 report and this had be addressed at the AGM held on the 13th March. (The AGM had adopted her suggestion and welcomed her offer- see SLIFG AGM 13.03.16 from Sarah Thorley document).

1. **Review of draft minutes of the AGM written by Rev Dr Alan Gadd and matters arising.**

**Matters arising:**

1. Alan Gadd raised the fact that under item 2. **Apologies** other names had been given and suggested that collectively we might add to this list.
2. Ivor Smith Cameron asked for clarity about item 4.4 **Financial accounts**; in the absence of Ebrahim Rashid (treasurer) Alan Gadd answered the query regarding the overall surplus (£650.47) and income from membership and donations (£904.50).
3. Ivor Smith Cameron asked about the overall size of the membership of SLIFG and sought to ascertain if the figure of 200 members was correct. Phil Cotgreave de Rahman said “Yes” but was corrected by Alan Gadd and who stated that the overall membership is “just over 100” people.

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman suggested to the Committee and those present who attended the AGM that the notes be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the aforementioned alteration/clarifications. He also recorded thanks to Alan Gadd for kindly and promptly producing the record of the business meeting. This was agreed. The notes will be slightly amended by Phill Cotgreave de Rahman and produced at the next AGM 2017.

1. **Appointment of a SLIFG Membership Secretary**

Alan Gadd outlined the duties involved in this role.

1. Receiving forms from the Treasurer
2. Maintaining and Excel database of members
3. Sending information by e-mail to members
4. Sending information by post when necessary or desirable

Rashid Laher volunteered to take on the role and agreed to meet with Alan Gadd to arrange a handover. Phil Cotgreave de Rahman thanked Rashid Laher for volunteering himself to undertake this role. Tini Brodie proposed a vote of thanks to Alan gad for all of his faithful work as Membership Secretary. This was seconded by Phill Cotgreave de Rahman

**Action outside the meeting:**

1. **Phill Cotgreave de Rahman sent a thank you text to Rashid Laher 31.03.16 @ 17.17 hrs and asked him to inform Phill when he and Alan Gadd had met for the above purpose.**
2. **Phill Cotgreave de Rahman wrote to Alan Gadd to thank him for his all of his work during the past 5 years as Membership Secretary for SLIFG.**
3. **Invite to Ganesh Lall to become an Honorary Member of SLIFG.**

Alan Gadd spoke to all present about the tradition of inviting distinguished ex-Committee members who had served faithfully for a significant period of time to become Honorary Members of SLIFG. Alan proposed that we invite Ganesh to become an Honorary Member. This was seconded and though no formal vote was carried out no objections were raised.

**Phill Cotgreave de Rahman offered to write to Ganesh with this invitation on behalf of SLIFG and this was agreed by the Committee present.**

1. **Encouraging more communication amongst committee members.**
2. Email; telephone numbers and mail address exchange. Phill Cotgreave de Rahman moved that a free exchange of contact details of the Committee members happen. Thelma; Rashid Laher; and Alan Gadd gave verbal consent. Thelma stated that she does not use electronic communications and prefers to be contacted by the telephone**.** Rashid Laher made reference to the need to be compliant with the Data Protection Act guidelines 1991.

**Actions:**

1. **Phil Cotgreave de Rahman undertook to ascertain individual committee members preferred communication methods.**
2. **Phill Cotgreave de Rahman to email of the committee who use email and get their written consent. Thelma will be written to.**
3. Creating a SLIFG Whatsapp group. In the absence of Rizwan Alibhai; Phill Cotgreave de Rahman (Secretary) sounded out the committee members views about creating a Whatsapp group.

**Actions:**

1. **Phil Cotgreave de Rahman offered to liaise with Rizwan Alibai regarding the practicalities of this proposal and action it.**
2. **Rashid Laher encouraged consideration and the use of other social media such as Facebook and Twitter.**
3. **Looking Back to the Future of SLIFG (Proposal for a review of the successful and distinct characteristics of SLIFG to date by arranging an Away day or Away Weekend )**
4. Organizing an Away day and/or Weekend Away Together

Rationale: Arranging and facilitating more social events to promote a better understanding and relationships and relationality amongst committee members whilst fostering an appreciation of the history of the organisation.

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman fed back about his communications with Ebrahim Rashid and suggested that this was a constructive way of moving forward in terms of the formation of a new committee. He said that he had a few places in mind and would be happy to explore the practicalities in terms of cost etc and report back to the committee.

**Action:**

**Phill Cotgreave de Rahman offered to carry out costings for these two proposals and feed back at the next Committee meeting (30th June)**

1. **Encouraging more open, honest and respectful debate and discussion on topics of common concern for the common good.**

Tini Brodie read out her ‘Thoughts on SLIFG’ See Addendum from Tini to Phil Cotgreave de Rahman dated 31.03.16

Tini Brodie and Ebrahim Rashid had independently expressed an interest in a forum for discussion and debate on topics of common interest. Phil Cotgreave de Rahman made reference to a former Newton Interfaith group that met in Battersea at Newton Preparatory School due to the facilitation and hospitality of the proprietor Farouk Walji. Reference was made by Thelma Lewis and Alan Gadd to previous interfaith discussions hosted by SLIFG as part of a ‘Scriptural Explorations’ series of meetings. There was a consensus that Tini; Ebrahim Rashid and Phill Cotgreave de Rahman would convene and explore the possibilities of setting up a facilitated forum that would consider meeting in a group of up to 12 people, details to be determined, for the purpose of discussion. Rashid Laher took exception to the word debate and suggested the use of the term “dialogue”.

**Action:**

**Tini Brodie has invited Phill Cotgreave de Rahman via text 31.03.16 to invite Ebrahim Rashid to a meal at her home to take this idea forward and a report will follow at the next SLIFG meeting on 30th June.**

1. **Visiting one another’s faith communities and facilitating exchange visits.**

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman invited Thelma Lewis and Sally Smith to talk to this item.

Thelma Lewis asserted that SLIFG need to think in terms of new membership of younger people and suggested visiting young community groups. Thelma produced a flyer related to a past event held on the 10th December 2015 organized by Balham & Tooting Association that was open to all. Thelma suggested that SLIFG groups might attend such events.

Sally Smith spoke of the importance of visiting places of worship of various faiths.

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman suggested that perhaps a starting point might be for the SLIFG Committee members to visit one another’s places of worship.

**Actions:**

There was no action plan agreed.

1. **Fostering an intergeneration focus on communication and community.**

Ivor Smith Cameron spoke briefly about the importance of the above subject. He encouraged both involvement of more younger and older persons in SLIFG.

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman encouraged all present to consider the impact and value of inviting both one younger and older person to join SLIFG or attend next year’s AGM. Though there was a consensus of the importance of this work there was no firm action plan agreed. However, Thecla Geraghty gave an example of young people from a school near her in Catford successfully visiting a Mosque in that locality. Phill Cotgreave de Rahman suggested that the same school children might visit the SLIFG meeting by arrangement.

**Actions:**

Nothing was agreed.

1. **A minibus for facilitating shared journeys and transport to places of worship and/or faith and community events**.

Phill Cotgreave de Rahman raised his idea of SLIFG either owning or hiring a minibus for the purpose of shared journeys to and from places of worship and or community events or away days/weekends. He commented that using local Borough Council Community Transport schemes was an option; though not an inexpensive one.

Sally Smith raised her objections that listed the reasons why in her view it would not be a good idea for SLIFG to own a minibus. Sally asked “how often would it be used?; how do we buy a minibus?; having such a disparate membership in terms of geography how practical would pick up be? Anton Bartick expressed that he thought there was value in having one.

Thelma Lewis expressed that in her view hiring one would be the most sensible dependent on the size of the group. Alan Gadd suggested a costing/scoping exercise in relation to the possible hire or purchase of a minibus. No clear consensus evolved. Rashid Laher suggested carrying over the item to the next meeting and this was agreed by Phill Cotgreave de Rahman.

**Action:**

**For furthering discussion at the next Committee meeting 30th June 2016**

1. Filling in Gaps & Membership of the SLIFG Committee and Future Co-Options.

Due to time constraints Phill Cotgreave de Rahman suggested that this item be carried over to the next meeting. Alan Gadd chose to speak briefly to the item. He reminded the Committee about the obligation of the Committee to be mindful of the SLIFG constitution and that at present there is no Jewish; Hindu or Quaker representation on the Committee. Alan informed the Committee that it was an obligation to fill the vacancies and also consider co-options to encourage both more youthful representation but also to encourage the missing faith group representations to be filled.

**Action:**

No specific actions were agreed.

**In closing the meeting Phill Cotgreave de Rahman (Secretary) thanked everyone for their participation and involvement and informed everyone that the next planned meeting is the 30th June 2016**