

Status: Public

OXFAM GB

CHAIR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING 7 AND 8 JULY 2016 HELD AT OXFAM HOUSE, OXFORD

The following people were present at the meeting:

Trustees

Karen Brown (Chair)
James Darcy
Kul Gautam
Wakkas Khan
David Pitt-Watson
Ruth Ruderham
Katy Steward
Nkoyo Toyo
Steve Walton
Ken Caldwell (Trustee Designate)

Corporate Management and Staff

Mark Goldring (Chief Executive)
Penny Lawrence (Deputy Chief Executive)
Tim Hunter (Fundraising Director)
Andrew Horton (Trading Director)
Jack Lundie (Communications Director)
Cherian Mathews (International Programmes Director)
Alison Hopkinson (Finance & Information Services Director)
Francoise Vanni (Campaigns, Policy & Influencing Director)
Joss Saunders (Company Secretary)
Anne Gornall (Governance Officer)

Apologies were received from Gavin Stewart. Council also noted the resignation of Matthew Spencer as a trustee.

No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting on 10 and 11 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

LOTTERY UPDATE

Ruth Ruderham and Tim Hunter updated trustees on proposals to run two Oxfam lotteries later in 2016; these had been considered by the Fundraising Committee. The proposals were supported, and there will be a review of lotteries at the Council meeting in March 2017.

DRAFT COUNCIL OBJECTIVES 2016/17

Objectives for Council had been prepared following the governance review in March 2016 and were closely linked with the corporate objectives. Trustees made a number of suggestions which were incorporated in the final objectives going forward.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The CEO's report was reviewed. Mark Goldring also updated trustees on some more recent events.

BREXIT IMPLICATIONS FOR OXFAM GB

Mark Goldring shared a paper which gave a summary of the position as at 6 July 2016. Trustees raised a number of points to feed into the ongoing analysis of the implications for Oxfam GB and the Oxfam confederation. Updates would be provided as the position becomes clearer; a further discussion is scheduled for the October Council meeting.

SEMINAR WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION

Trustees and the Leadership Team had a seminar which discussed a range of issues with three senior representatives from the Charity Commission.

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STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS

The July Council meeting is the forum for wider discussions about Oxfam's strategic direction and some key themes. Mark Goldring referred trustees to his vision paper and also the draft finance strategy; both attempted to articulate Oxfam GB's future direction and role.

The Chair welcomed James Whitehead (Global Innovation Adviser and Irene Guijt (Head of Research) who contributed to a wide range of discussions around programme vision, thought leadership, innovation and public engagement. Based on the current four strategic priorities (Water, Women, Work and Inequality), trustees endorsed the need to incorporate innovation and thought leadership and to develop benchmarking against a range of other organisations and NGOs. A further update will be provided at the October Council meeting, and the Leadership Team would report on progress at the December meeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING FROM 2015/16: YEAR END REVIEW

The Chair welcomed Sasha Lewis (Director, PWC), Ali Henderson (Head of Corporate Planning and Reporting), Claire Hutchings (Head of Evaluation and Effectiveness) and Dave Hillyard ((Philanthropy and Partnerships Director). As input to the end of year reporting against objectives, there were case studies on resilience, campaigns, and a partnership with a major corporate which had developed from June 2015. Council expressed appreciation for the review and the learning provided from the case studies.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2015/16

Sasha Lewis remained for this discussion which was chaired by the Honorary Treasurer (David Pitt-Watson). Council confirmed its statutory responsibilities, and the Reserves and Investment policies. The report and accounts were approved for publication on the website and to go to the AGM 7 October 2016.

OXFAM 2020 UPDATE

Trustees received an update from the Transitional Oversight Group, which had been set up to ensure Council overview of the transfer of some governance and management responsibilities to Oxfam International. The group would continue its work over the summer and report back to the October meeting.

OTHER GOVERNANCE MATTERS

These included:-

- Approval of Council appointments going forward to the AGM 7 October 2016
- Approval of Fundraising Committee terms of reference
- Consideration of the Annual Report on the Trustee Code of Conduct and approval of three resolutions as outlined (including amendments to the Code of Conduct)
- Update from other Council committees: the Recruitment and Development Group, the Trustee Audit and Finance Group, the Programme Review Group and the Remuneration Committee
- Updates on Chair and Treasurer recruitment

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked Françoise Vanni for her work and wished her well with her new role.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6 and Friday 7 October 2016

Chair