

# BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC.

AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING BUDDHISTS THROUGH BUDDHIST GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS  
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## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND

**MEETING DATE:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**VENUE:** Karuna House

**ATTENDANCE:** As Per Attendance Book

**QUORUM:** Yes

**APOLOGIES:** Chee Weng Wong

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jim Ferguson

**SECRETARY:** Lynn O'Connor.

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Lynn O'Connor

Seconded: Tan Sarath-Chandra

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. Jim thanks all for coming along to the first committee meeting of this era.
2. Jim stated that he likes to promote very open committee meetings, all correspondence and books are available for perusal.
3. Correspondence read out and tabled for committee to read at their leisure
  - a. Austbrokers Regional, re Public Liability quote (discussed later)
  - b. QLD Police Liaison Officer. Letter of Introduction from Josipa Krizanac (discuss at later date)
  - c. Email from Rob Assink, re talks on CD by Venerable Khenpo
  - d. Email from Noel R Box stating he would be happy to do the 2005 audit (discussed later)
  - e. Email from Hawaii Buddhist Temple with flyers for accommodation
  - f. Memorandum of Understanding, re BCQ Website development and fees
  - g. Letter from Hennie van Dyk, re Website use by BCQ members.

Treasurers report was that we are \$20.00 more financial than at the AGM. Balance in account is \$511.78. Books passed to Siri Fernando as the new Treasurer. We have one outstanding liability being Public Liability Insurance.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

**1a. Explanation of the Constitution** as we have it. Which is a copy of a Draft Constitution not the original. The missing documents have been found. Jim summarised the paperwork. Basically that the BCQ adopted the Model Rules with some amendments. This means that we do not have to discuss amending the Constitution as we can now adopt the new Model Rules V5, However, he still proposes that we need to include a Not For Profit clause. At the moment we are legally entitled to become an Income Tax Exempt entity, without that clause we are not. This will require a special resolution at the next General Meeting.

**1b. Who do we represent?** Jim thanked Chee Weng Wong for his email regarding the Constitution. A discussion followed as to who we represent. Do we represent the individual or the Dhamma groups?

At the moment you basically have to have at least eight members and incorporated to become a member. A breakdown was given of the class of membership as it stands. This means the maximum number of members is 62 groups with 4 representatives each, 240 maximum members. After some discussion Jim suggest that we all have a think about this for further discussion at a later date.

Meeting was referred back to the discussion notes.

**Constitution Item 2 – Objects.**

**Item 4** – Group discussion on the subject of having a library was undertaken. It was decided to take a vote on this subject. Jim recommended that this item be deleted from our rules.

Tan has proposed that we retain the library.

**Moved:** Tan Sarath-Chandra

**Seconded:** Peter Lester

**For:** 2

**Against:** 4

**Abstained:** 2

Motion Lost

Jim recommended that this item be deleted from our rules.

**Moved:** Jim Ferguson

**Seconded:** Kim Hollow

**For:** 4

**Against:** 2

**Abstained:** 2

Motion Carried

**Item 5 – OFT Objects.** Jim stated that this is item is covered by Item 4. After discussion a vote was taken to leave this item in.

Vote was unanimous

Motion Carried

**Item 9** – Vote taken to leave Item 9 in

Vote was unanimous

Motion Carried

**Items 11 – 13 inclusive** – Kim proposed that the discussion on Objects be deferred to the next meeting so all can familiarise themselves with this subject matter.

**Proposed:** Kim Hollow

**Seconded:** Jim Ferguson

Vote was unanimous

Motion Carried

**Not for Profit Clause:** Jim stated that there are two clauses that have to be added to the Model Rules. A discussion was held on the Model Rules and the changes that are allowed. Jim proposed that we incorporate both of these clauses into the Powers to ensure appropriate eligibility and that we accept the amended Model Rules.

1. Dissolution Clause
2. Not for Profit Clause

**Moved:** Jim Ferguson

**Seconded:** Kim Hollow

**For:** 7

**Abstained:** 1

Motion Carried

**2a. BCQ Funding:** A discussion was held on the lack of funds in the BCQ coffers. Jim gave a breakdown of the projected annual budget. There was then a discussion on fees. We have a quote of \$958.38 from Austbrokers Regional for Public Liability Insurance, which technically, has to be paid to be legally incorporated. External funding was discussed. Jim read out a list of possibilities but cautioned us not to bank on this funding. Basically we need to reintroduce membership fees. Jim stated "If we can present to the various centres something that actually proposes a benefit to them as a centre by becoming a true umbrella organization, a referral point. Something that will be of benefit to them, as well as to the Dhamma. If worded appropriately this should bring forth some support".

It was proposed that each committee member shall make individual approach to Temples they are comfortable with seeking financial support to meet projected Council expenses.

**Moved:** Kim Hollow  
Vote was unanimous

**Seconded:** Terry O'Connor

Motion Carried

**2b. Funding Sub-Committee:** A sub-committee was formed to secure grants for projects to be decided upon. This will consist of Jim Ferguson, Kim Hollow and Jay Maharage.

**Moved:** Jim Ferguson  
Vote was unanimous

**Seconded:** Terry O'Connor

Motion Carried

**2c. Bank details** to be listed with the bank are President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President. The signatories will be President and Treasurer.

**2d. Mobile phone** details and discussion deferred to the next committee meeting.

**2e. Future direction of the Council:** It was noted that Rahu Sarath-Chandra's suggestion of a Business Plan has been noted and is part of our vision and will be addressed at a future meeting.

**2f. Multi-Faith Forum:** Terry gave a brief explanation of his visit to the Multi-Faith Forum meeting with Yeshe Khadro. Support was given for Terry to continue as one of the Buddhist representatives, along with Yeshe Khadro and Venerable Lozang Thubten.

**2g. Abuse of Buddhist Statues:** A letter was tabled by Jim from Sunil Vijayapali regarding the abuse of Buddhist statues in this country eg. the Tsunami assistance had bed sheets with the Buddha's image on them. Jim sent him a short reply, saying he hoped we could do something about this.

**2h. Your Management Committee:** Response to Rahu Sarath-Chandra's suggestion at the General Meeting. He made the suggestion that the Sangha being represented on the committee. This will be addressed at a future meeting. Also, he mentioned a Code of Ethical Conduct. Jim directed us to the OFT website at [www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au) and follow the links to get a copy of "Your Management Committee".

**2i. School Projects:** General discussion about school children emailing and asking questions about Buddhism for projects. For the moment Terry is to continue replying to these emails and documenting his responses for future reference.

**2j. Spiritual Representation:** Kim raised the subject of having Spiritual representation on the Council. The general consensus was to have a representative on a rotational basis.  
Proposal – In our approach to various centres, we ask for a member of the Sangha to assist the Council on a rotational basis.

**Moved:** Jim Ferguson  
Vote was unanimous

**Seconded:** Terry O'Connor

Motion Carried

**Evaluations.....**

- Very productive
- Extremely satisfactory
- Encouraging
- Stimulating
- Extremely productive

**3a. Information Update:** Kim requested that as a Council we have all information updated on the Internet. Jim will contact the relevant groups to have Peter Nai's name removed and all information updated.

**3b. Guest Speaker:** Terry suggested that we ask Venerable Lozang Thubten to be Guest Speaker at the next General Meeting. Jim will organise this.

**3c. Vote of Thanks:** Jay proposed a vote of thanks to Karuna House for hosting this meeting.

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

**Date:** 9<sup>TH</sup> July

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Venue:** Karuna House

With Thanks from Jim for attending the meeting.

**MEETING CONCLUDED:** 4.05pm

**President**.....

**Secretary**.....

**Date**.....



**NEXT MEETING**

**DATE**

**TIME**

**VENUE**

**SECRETARY**

**CHAIRPERSON**