

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Chairman

Mr. Manharlal L. Mehta
37 Howberry Road
Edgware
HA8 6SS

020 8952 1165

chairman@ncva.co.uk



Charity no. 1137083

General Secretary

Mr. Mahesh S. Gandhi
23 Hughenden Avenue
Kenton, Harrow
HA3 8HA

020 8933 8882

secretary@ncva.co.uk

Minutes of the NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on 22 Feb 2015 at NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade, 79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ

Present: Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Jayman Mehta; Harshad Mehta; ; Kirit Batavia; Chandrakant Mehta; Ramesh Shah; Jayesh Shah; Chirag Bajaria; Harshida Mehta; Navin Sheth; Saroj Varia.

Apologies: Vijay Sheth; Sudhaben Mandaviya; Harkishan Mehta; Shashi Shah; Saroj Shah; Bharat Mehta; Asha Mehta; Anil Parekh; Kirit Mehta; Kalpit Doshi; Chandri Vora; Nikhil Sangani; Dhiru Galani; Gajendra Chhatrisha; Dinesh Sheth; Bina Holden

1) Prayers

All present joined the prayer.

2) Welcome and apologies

All attendees were welcomed to the NCVA's new office and apologies received were noted, as above.

3) Approval of Minutes of 09-Nov-14

Accepted

4) Matters Arising

None.

5) Health Seminar

The next health Seminar will be held in East London at Nagrecha Hall, 198 - 202 Leyton Road, London E15 1DT on the 3rd May 2015. All affiliated organisations were asked to make sure they enter this date into their diary and support this seminar. The hall has already been booked. Plans are being formulated for events throughout the day. This will include Seminars, and Workshops with invitations to all Vaniks across London.

Regional Vice Chairmen

(North Region)
Mr. Kiran N..Mehta

(Midlands)
Mr. Kalpit D. Doshi

(Greater London)
Mr. Vijay H. Sheth

(South Region)
Mr. Harkishan D. Mehta

Treasurer

Mr. Jaykumar T. Shah

Deputy General Secretary

Mr Bharat Mehta

Executive Committee Members

Mrs. Asha Mehta
Mr. Bharat Mehta
Mr. Chandrakant Mehta
Mr. Kirit Batavia
Mr. Ramesh Shah
Mrs. Roopal Punater
Mrs. Saroj Varia

Co opted:

Mr. Chirag Bajaria
Mr. Jayman Mehta

e- News Letter :

VANIK VOICE

Editor:
Mr Anil Parekh

Hon. Auditors

P.S.J. Alexander & Co

Website: www.ncva.co.uk

Newsletter: www.ncva.co.uk/newsletter

Affiliated Associations

Aden Vanik Association of UK, Digamber Jain Visa Mevada Association of UK, East London Bhagini, Jain Association of UK, Jain Network, Jain Samaj Europe, Jain Samaj Manchester, Jain Sangh Birmingham, Mahavir Foundation, Nari Vrund, Navnat Vanik Association of UK, Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj, Navnat Bridge Club, Navnat Vadil Mandal, Navnat Youth Association, Oshwal Association of UK, Shree Jain Sangh East London & Essex, Shree Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal, Shree Sidhpuria Vanik Samaj, Shrimali Soni Mandal London, Shree Sorathia Vanik Association (UK), Vanik Association UK, Vanik Samaj Coventry, Vanik Samaj Leicester, Vanik Samaj of UK Brighton, Vanik Samaj Southampton, Veerayatan UK, Young Jains

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Harshidaben will arrange local meetings to formulate a plan for the day with support from NCVA. Meeting will be arranged within the next two weeks to ensure the schedule for the day is fully discussed and agreed.

Discussions at the meeting took place to explore the possibility of grants for this event. Local NHS, National Lottery, European Community Funds, NHS Care Community Fund are some of the possibilities. Harshidaben will investigate and report back to NCVA.

6) New Printed Directory

The distribution of the new printed directory is now complete. The generation and subsequent release of the directory has taken almost two years with a lot of hard work of the NCVA subcommittee that faced a number of issues along the way. Manharbhai thanked all those who were involved.

Following various discussions and email exchanges between NCVA and the printers, agreement has been reached to the level of compensation that we will receive for the delays in delivering the directories. The level of compensation received is £2100 and the printers have now been paid the outstanding balance.

In summary, the cost of printing and distribution has been £12600. The income received £12144.

With more directories printed than the families in our database, it was agreed that any new family registrations will be provided with the printed directory free until no more copies remain. Further, it was agreed that those members, already on the database, who request a copy of the directory will be charged £3 pounds. The rationale being that they should have already received a copy.

Moving forwards, addresses of families where directories have been returned as undelivered will be removed from the database.

In addition, the use of e-directory will be promoted with affiliated organisations encouraged to request members to register on our database on www.vaniks.co.uk.

7) Treasurers Report

The accounts are almost complete. It is anticipated that accounts will be presented at the next meeting.

Gift aid needs to be claimed for the last three years. This will be completed over the next few months.

Jayeshbhai has started to send reminders for subscriptions for this year. Some of these were handed out at the meeting.

Surplus cash (£20k) will be deposited into a 1 year fixed bond with Bank of Baroda.

Previously, discussion took place around funds that remain from the previous setup of the Vanik Professional Group. Vijaybhai indicated that he was in touch with professional individuals who would be able to put forward proposals for consideration by the NCVA committee. Initial meetings have been held however a full proposal is required for submission to the Chairman, Treasurer and General Secretary.

8) Secretary's Report

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Emails continue to be received from members requesting changes to the directory. These continue to be addressed, when possible.

Distribution of information that would be useful to our community continues to be circulated to members when requested from affiliated organisations.

We have now rented premises in Harrow, full address as detailed above.

Subscription for the Insurance policy that was due for renewal has been paid for another year.

An order has been placed for the sign in front of our office.

All Photo and Video DVDs for the 35 year celebration have been distributed.

Following the NCVA conference last year a number of points have been previously discussed with the summary as follows. This information has been retained in the minutes to ensure action is taken when appropriate.

- Conference every two years – It was agreed previously that this was to be a good idea, however it was felt that only one major event should be planned annually. Last year, the 35 years celebration was arranged. This year there is a plan to hold a National Health day, however at present a health seminar in East London is being planned.
- Resurrect Vanik Voice – This is now complete with issues being regularly released.
- Plan and capture vision for the next 4-5 years – This needs to be developed and will be given consideration following the 35 years celebration. Kiranbhai Mehta has experience in this area at a corporate level and will capture this vision for further debate within the committee.
- Introduction of a NCVA web calendar to promote events of all affiliated organisations. This calendar is now operational and individuals are requested to include events directly. 35 Years Celebration and Health Seminar need to be included.
- Chaplaincy service to be extended to cover elderly, disabled and widows/widowers who are living on their own (by home visits or as necessary)
- Make individual members of the organisation aware of what activities are carried out by NCVA.

Previously areas detailed below have also been raised for consideration.

- Vaniks need to be represented at senior level. Need to encourage more people to participate possible via holding debates with councillors etc.
- Harshadbhai mentioned that more needs to be done to help the elderly and disabled within our community. We therefore need to provide support as part of our core activities.
- Harshadbhai mentioned the need to produce a professional directory. Manharbhai mentioned this used to be produced and should now be resurrected. Harshadbhai mentioned that he has already started this task.

9) Matrimonial Register & Speed Dating

Matrimonial Register

- The register holds records for 98 females and 90 males.
- There have been more registrations following the speed dating event due to those attending speed dating event having been given free one year subscription.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

- Matrimonial register is now fully operational online.
- All new applications and payments are done on-line.
- Registration and Payment of fee carried out on-line.

Speed Dating

- The event on 08- Feb-2015 was held and overall very successful. Many participants provided positive feedback following the event and were happy with the overall organisation.
- 264 participants attended - 129 females and 132 males. 91 identified themselves as Jain and 173 as Hindu.
- Four rounds of speed dating were held. Depending on the ages some would have been involved in less rounds and therefore at the next event age limitations will apply.
- Rameshbhai mentioned the various issues he faced in reconciling payments against registrations. An integrated system is necessary and the possibility of using 'Eventbrite' will now be considered for future events.
- With some feedback that has been received and general comments made at the meeting, it is important to ensure all these are considered prior the next event. Some general comments include – no sweet dish, would have liked Samosa's/Kachoris as part of the menu, publicity for the event particularly through our affiliated organisations, a small break between rounds as many individuals were very tired etc.
- Rameshbhai was asked to prepare a summary of accounts for the event.

10) Spiritual Care

- Multifaith training has been organised for the 24-Feb-2015 where five individuals will attend. A subsequent training day has been organised on the 1-May-2015.
- NCVA continues to look for volunteers to join hospital chaplaincy department for at least half a day per week. Any training that is required will be arranged by NCVA.
- Manharbhai has previously been asked to provide a summary of what is involved with this training and provide a guide as to what is involved in someone who wishes to train as a Chaplin. He is in the process of documenting the details.
- Funding from next year is likely to be reduced or stopped. We have received 4k so far and a further 3k is anticipated. Regardless of funding, this is seen as an important task undertaken by NCVA and it must continue.
- In terms of community health, an advisory service by NCVA is being proposed. Approaches to NHS Brent and Harrow will be made.
- Previously the meeting has discussed the need to better understand tasks involved within 'Jain Spritual Care'. Booklets on Jain Spritual Care, Last Rites, and Funeral Vidhi are being prepared. These booklets will be circulated to key individuals within our community for comment, before publication. Publication of these booklets will hopefully bring consistency and will standardised activities across all areas.
- Previously Harshadbhai mentioned that more needs to be done to help the elderly and disabled within our community. Harshadbhai is able to provide guidance to anyone who needs help. Manharbhai to liaise with Harshadbhai to determine if a service can be provided by NCVA to help our community

11) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

- A plan with a set of clear requirements is required to redevelop our website. These sets of requirements must ensure all requirements from services that we provide are fully considered particularly those that also need interactions with databases.

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

- Web calendar – Organisations were encouraged to use this facility to promote local events
- Initial meeting has been held to discuss how the website could be improved. Need to consider advertisements on the website and a page for each of the affiliated organisation.

E-Newsletter

- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.
- Consider inclusion of Advertisement in the publication.
- Organisations were asked to send VV to all their members.

12) Area Chairmen's reports.

Summary from Navnat Vanik Association

- Refurbishments being carried out. Expected to be complete by 19-Mar-2015.
- Mahavir Janma Kalyanak – 19-Apr-2015
- Careers Fair – 25-Apr-2015
- AGM – 26-Apr-2015
- Paryushan – 11-Sep-2015

Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj

- Cooking Demo – 14th Mar-2015
- Canary Island tour – 16-Mar-2015
- AGM – 9-May-2015
- Dharmik Program – 17-May-2015

Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex – Dinesh Sheth

Three Dham Yatra: We welcomed the New Year with a visit to three places of worship on Sunday, 25 January. Our first stop was at the Colindale Derasar where some of us participated in the performance of a Snatra Pooja. After that we made a whistle stop visit of the Derasar in Kenton. The tour culminated with a visit of the Sanatan Mandir in Wembley. Among the idols of manHindu deities, there are also the moorti – pratimajis - of Simandhar Swami and Padmavati Mata.

Our next function is an extra ordinary general meeting (EGM) on Sunday, 15 January to seek membership's approval for a building project. Having been established in 1991, SJS will complete 25 years next year. We would be celebrating its Silver Jubilee with a host of programmes throughout this year and the next by a host of programmes, including a variety show on 14 November this year, and culminating with many other functions in addition to the Triveni Sangam by our Bhagini Mandal

Summary from Vanik Samaj of Brighton

- A large amount of fund has been dormant in a bank account for many years. Chandrakantbhai wanted to make it clear that these funds still belonged to the Vanik Samaj of Brighton and was not with his family. Chandrakantbhai asked for assistance to determine how these funds should be used/distributed. Manharbhai asked Chandrakantbhai to send a formal letter to NCVA, providing committee members and details and their constitution. This will be reviewed and then NCVA could facilitate a session to determine how best to bring a resolution to this issue.

Summary from – Navnat Vadil Mandal

- AGM – 18-Apr-2015
- Two functions planned later this year,

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Summary from Aden Vanik

- Mother's day in association with SSAV being planned.
- Religious programme planned later this year.

14) AOB

- Harsharbai suggested that membership fee to NCVA should be increased to £10/representative.
- Where directories have been returned, affiliated organisations should be approached to trace individuals.
- Increase facilities within the NCVA office so more organisations can use the premises.

15) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

3rd or 10th May. Venue to be determined.