



VANIK COUNCIL

formerly The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK), established 1978

www.vanikcouncil.uk

Live and Help to Live

79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ, United Kingdom

Charity Number 1137083

**Minutes of the NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on
07 May 2017 at
NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade,
79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ**

Present: Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Jayman Mehta; Kirit Batavia, Virendra Bakhai; Bharat Mehta; Bhupendra Vasa; Nitin Mehta, Vijay Sheth, Jaykumar Shah, Chetna Desai, Bharat Parekh, Prakash Mehta;

Apologies: Ramesh Shah; Saroj Shah; Rajnikant Shah; Shashi Shah; Asha Mehta; Chirag Bajaria; Chandrakant Mehta, Saroj Varia, Kiran Mehta; Sudhaben Mandaviya; Anil Parekh; Renuka Mehta; Navin Sheth, Harshad Kothari, Kirit Shah

1) Prayers/Welcome

The meeting started at 11:45 with all present reciting the prayer. All attendees were welcomed followed by introductions.

2) Approval of Minutes of 19th Feb 2017

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman and General Secretary.

3) Matters Arising

Name change (Vanik Council) – Process has now been completed. Office sign will change in due course.

4) Treasurers Report

Accounts for the year 2016 are complete and were distributed for comment in the meeting. In summary it shows a loss of £3149.

These have been accepted, proposed by Kiritbhai and seconded by Vijaybhai.

These will now be submitted to the auditors.

Vanik Council would like to thank the auditors for they support, advice and services.

Vijaybhai suggest holding one or two events in a year which could realise into further income. Vijaybhai will forward his proposals to the Chairman and Secretary for review and consideration.

Chairman

Mr. Manharlal Mehta

General Secretary

Mr. Mahesh Gandhi

Regional Vice-Chairmen

North Region

Mr. Kiran N. Mehta

Midlands

Mr. Rajnikant Shah

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. Shashi Shah

Mr. Virendra Bakhai

Mr. Kirit Batavia

Mr. Ramesh Shah

Mrs. Bina Holden

Mrs. Saroj Varia

Co-opted

Mr. Chirag D. Bajaria

Mr. Jayman Mehta

Webmaster

Mr. Bhupen Vasa

Newsletter Editor

Mr. Anil D. Parekh

Honorary Auditors

P.S.J. Alexander & Co.

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Attempts continue to seek subscriptions from affiliated organisations; however it is becoming time consuming. Jayeshbhai encouraged all affiliated organisations to provide subscriptions as requested. Jayeshbhai will produce a list and provide it to the Area Chair's for their support in gathering the subscription.

5) Secretary's Report

Discussions continue with our website designers on the migration of the Vanik's Database/Directory .

Distribution of information that is useful to our community continues to be circulated to members when requested from affiliated organisations. More and more organisations have started to use this facility. More recently the following has been circulated to all members in the NCVA database.

- VANIK Council - Speed Dating Event – 14th May 2017
- JVBL - Mega Preksha Meditation Retreat 6-7 May 2017 at Wyboston Lakes
- One JAIN - INVITATION TO LAUNCH OF JAIN MANIFESTO - 10 MAY AT EKTA CENTRE
- Life Global UK - Invitation to Life Global UK Launch Event – 24th May 2017
- NVA - RAM NAVAMI Celebration, 2nd Apr 2017
- YUGPURUSH - GUJARATI PLAY COMES TO UK 27 APRIL - 11 MAY
- JITO-UK - Business and Professional Seminar "Start, Grow, Invest – 5th Mar 2017
- One JAIN - Invitation to JITO Event (Brexit and UK Jain Community) – 10th May 2017

6) Vanik Professional Group

Discussions on resurrecting the Vanik Professional Group has taken place in previous meetings.

In summary, the Vanik Professional Group was setup by NCVA many years ago and was affiliated to NCVA, however due to various reasons stopped operating. It was agreed that it would be useful resurrect this group with a defined set of aims and objectives. The aims and objectives however must consider the service it can provide to the community. The group also needs to be self-financing, following initial setup, costs using the budget that has been set aside.

It was decided that a sub committee consisting of Vijaybhai Sheth , Binaben Patel, Ashaben Mehta, Virendrabhai Bakhai and supported by Manharbhai and Mahesh would be setup.

Nitinbhai Parekh has kindly provided some thoughts below which could be used by the subcommittee to develop further.

Objective:

Main objective of the group is to provide tools, platform, help and assistance to professionals and Business persons of Vanik Community to create or/and enhance knowledge of the professions or businesses.

How to achieve the Objective:

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By organising seminars, talks and gathering for following matters.

- Health Awareness
- Financial Awareness
- Taxation Awareness
- Networking
- Business/professional support, guidance and mentoring
- Information Technology training
- Seminars and Mentoring for leadership and public speaking
- Political awareness/participation and help in getting in politics and further progression
- Immigration and Visa Guidance

A sub committee meeting will be arranged to take this further.

7) Speed Dating

- The next speed-dating event held by NCVA will be on 14th May 2018.
- Navnat Vanik Association has allowed 40% discount on hall hire for the event for which Vanik Council is most grateful.
- So far the response received is very good with registration for boys has closed due to heavy demand. Registration for girls has been left open until 8th May.
- Rameshbhai has urged everyone to contact their family and friends for those who may be interested.
- There will be free matrimonial registration for all those attending speed dating.
- We are grateful to Punir Rohit Mehta who will supply food at no cost to Vanik Council.

8) Matrimonial Register

For matrimonial, free registration was offered to the participants of last speed dating.

- Previously there were issues with registration of new candidates. This has now been resolved with registrations that can take place on our website.
- Overseas applicants are also included in the register.
- Possible Future Improvements
 - Dialogue via emails for those who have registered, rather than by telephone.
 - Appears to be more oriented towards parents and consideration should be given to target youngsters.
 - Ask affiliated organisations to invite NCVA to attend their meeting and allocate 5-10 minutes to promote NCVA activities.
 - Promote members of affiliated organisations to register on the Vaniks Database.
 - Promote Matrimonial services via email to all those who have registered on the Vaniks Database.
 - Ask affiliated organisations to promote matrimonial services to their members.
 - We can use the database to extract relevant information and target individuals who would be interested.

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The terms and conditions on the Matrimonial Registration forms have now been updated on the website.

9) Spiritual Care and Community Care

Spiritual Care

- Manharbhai has joined North London Hospice.
- Harshadbhai Sanghrajka is appointed as Chaplaincy volunteer for UCL Hospital.
- Renuben Mehta has volunteered for chaplaincy services at Hillingdon Hospital and for home visits.
- Funeral Services – A number of individuals have shown interest. This includes individuals in Leicester and Manchester. This will be discussed further with individuals.
- NHS funds for use in Chaplaincy Services for 16-17 has been received £ 6150, however will be shown in 17/18 accounts due to delay in money receipt.
- New initiatives being discussed whereby Volunteers would be sent to help patients at their home, hospices, care homes, hospitals etc. NCVA is working with NHS and obtain a grant to provide this service. Over 40 volunteers have already shown an interest. A presentation was held with forms provided for completion. However completed forms have not been received.

10) New Project – Living Organ Donation

Vanik Council is currently engaged on campaigning for organ donation; particularly donation of a kidney by living people. The current project concentrates on live kidney transplants within the Jain community of North West London. It is funded by NHSBT.

A leaflet is being produced and will shortly be printed and distributed at various events and all organisations. In addition will also hold gatherings of our community members to raise awareness

NVBS invited Vanik Council to speak for up to 10 minutes during their health seminar on 04th March 2017. This was well received and Vanik Council is grateful to NVBS.

All EC committee members are invited to a presentation planned by Vanik Council on the 12th May at Navnat Centre on Living Organ Donation. Please let Manharbhai know asap.

Manharbhai has requested all attendees to let Vanik Council know if anyone is aware of issues within their friends/family relating to Kidneys and need more information. Vanik Council will be able to assist and all those who attended the meeting were encouraged to promote this service. In particular, those individuals who are on Dialysis, awaiting a kidney, wish to donate a kidney, concerned about their organs etc should get in touch with Vanik Council.

Manharbhai has asked NVA to support Vanik Council in use of facilities/publicise events planned later this year to help promote this issue within our community. This will be put forward to the NVA committee.

11) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

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Vanik Directory - The developers have provided an early version of the migrated Vanik Database for test purposes. Feedback is being sought to ensure it works as expected. A number of individuals have been asked to carry out the tests.

E-Newsletter

- Anilbhai has produced a version of the next Vanik Voice. Once information on Living Donation is included, the newsletter will be distributed.
- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.

12) Donations to Charity

At previous meetings there was a discussion on Vanik Council making donations to charities.

The following charities have been nominated and were discussed at the meeting.

- Asian Foundation For Help - £500
- BEHT - An education trust - £500
- Global UK - £1000
- Two hospices - £500 each. A total of £1000
- Young Indian Vegetarians(Nitin Mehta) - £500

Following discussions, it was agreed to donate as indicated above once accounts from these charities have been obtained, reviewed and accepted.

Chetna Desai has suggested a Charity in India. She will provide information for consideration.

13) Area Chairmen's reports.

Summary from Jain Network

Regular activities at Jain Centre

Weekly Yoga

Snatra pooja takes place in the Jinalay every Sunday

Pathshala - Regular pathshala classes have taken place at the Centre during the year including classes for children and adults.

The Centre has also been used by Shrimad Rajchandra Magic Touch to teach children and Young Jains regularly use the Centre to deliver a range of activities to young people.

Aymbil Olyi

Fundraising committee doing well to raise funds for the building project. Building work has stopped temporarily due to issues in transferring funds from India.

Summary from Jain Samaj Europe - Leicester

Next year 30 years celebration is being planned . This will include 30 Programmes that will be planned throughout the year. Donations are being sought for these programmes.

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The religious activities are taking place like Satsang on first Sunday of the month. Religious classes on each Monday evening and on Tuesday morning, regular groups visiting temple etc.

Summary from Navnat Vanik Association

- AGM – 21st May 2017
- Mela – 30th July 2017
- Navnatri 21st Sep – 30th Sep
- Sarag Puni – 6th Oct 2017
- Paryushan Celebration 2017 – 19th Aug 2017
- Paryushan – Sangh Parna – 27th Aug 2017
- Pritibojan – 10th Sep 2017

Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj

- AGM – 13th May
- NanGrah Pooja – 4th Jun 2017
- Diwali Dhamaka – 21st Oct 2017
- Christmas Event – 2nd Dec 2017
- 40th Ruby Celebration – 18th Nov 2017

Summary from – Navnat Vadil Mandal

- 85+ individuals were honoured by NVM. This was well attended.
- AGM held – same committee. Three new posts created.
- Living Donation event by Vanik Council on the 12th May at the Navnat Centre.

Summary South East Jain Association

- Health Seminar in Sep planned.
- Paryushan Celebration 2017 – Aug/Sep 2017

14) AOB

- Start planning for a Vanik Gathering in 2018.

15) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

9th Jul 2017 - Venue to be decided.