

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

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Chairman

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General Secretary

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Minutes of the NCVA Council meeting held at 11:45 on 06 Nov 2016 at NCVA office, 7 Arrowhead Parade, 79 Headstone Gardens, Harrow HA2 6PJ

Present: Manharlal Mehta; Mahesh Gandhi; Jayman Mehta; Ramesh Shah; Virendra Bakhai; Saroj Varia, Shashi Shah; Asha Mehta; Bhupendra Vasa; Vijay Sheth, Chirag Bajaria; Jayesh Gandhi; Chandrakant Mehta, Pravina Shah; Chaya Shah; Bina Patel; Kirit Shah; Jaykumar Shah;

Apologies: Saroj Shah; Anil Shah; Rajnikant Shah; Bharat Mehta; Kirit Batavia; Usha Menta, Kiran Mehta; Sudhaben Mandaviya; Chand Patel; Nikhil Sangani; Anil Parekh; Renuka Mehta; Raksha Shah; Harkisan Mehta

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 12th Jun 2016

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

3) Matters Arising

Discussions took place around setting up of a WhatsApp group of council members. It was agreed that this would benefit with general communication, however would need to ensure a clear set of guidelines are set up in advance.

During the health seminar, NCVA purchased a reasonable quantity of health bars and drinks for all the attendees. However not all the quantity purchased was consumed and therefore it was agreed that NCVA would receive back the refund for the items not consumed.

4) Treasurers Report

Attempts continue to seek subscriptions from affiliated organisations; however it is becoming time consuming. Jayeshbhai encouraged all affiliated organisations to provide subscriptions as requested.

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 Jain Sangh East London and Essex Bhagini, Shree Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal, Shree Sidhpuria Vanik Samaj, Shrimali Soni Mandal London, Shree Sorathia Vanik Association (UK), South East Jain Association, Vanik Association UK, Vanik Samaj Coventry, Vanik Samaj Leicester, Vanik Samaj of UK Brighton, Vanik Samaj Southampton, Veerayatan UK, Young Jains

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 Bajaria
Mr. Jayman Mehta

e- News Letter :

VANIK VOICE

Editor:
Mr Anil Parekh

Hon. Auditors

P.S.J. Alexander & Co

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Following submission of accounts for 31/12/2015, they have now been approved by the auditors

Gift aid list for submission is complete and will be submitted shortly.

5) Secretary's Report

Considerable effort has been consumed in discussions on the migration of the Vanik's Database/Directory and our NCVA Website with Webthinking.

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.

- Invitation to JITO Event (Brexit and UK Jain Community)
- NCVA: Health Seminar - Protecting Heart Function & Heart Health by Dr Ameet Bakhai
- NVBS - Tour Flyer
- Jain Samaj Europe Survey
- Jain Network CELEBRATION OF PARYUSHAN MAHAPARVA
- Jain Network Invitation for Bhoomi Poojan / Khanan Vidhi / Shilanyas celebrations at Jain Centre London
- NCVA -Presentation and Demonstration on Samvatsari Pratikraman
- Vanik Voice – Jul 2016
- Volunteers for NCVA's Jain Spiritual Health Care programme

Following installation of broadband in our office, the service has not been used as desired. Therefore this service has been cancelled however will be continuously reviewed and if required will be reinstated. Ashaben will provide details of a supplier where costs are reasonable.

Previously installation charges were incurred however this has now been refunded. In addition, following involvement of the ombudsman for the inconvenience caused, an apology and £30 compensation has been recommended which NCVA has accepted.

6) Vanik Professional Group

Discussions on resurrecting the Vanik Professional Group took place at the meeting.

The Vanik Professional Group was setup by NCVA many years ago and was affiliated to NCVA, however due to various reasons stopped operating. At the close, assets of 4.5k were handed to NCVA, for holding purposes until a decision was made to make the best use of it, for similar purposes. The meeting 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. Recommendations from this committee would be put forward at the next council meeting.

7) Speed Dating

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- The last speed dating event was held on the 22 May 2016 with 278 participants and the feedback received from those candidates who attended was very positive. As a result of feedback received one change that has been made to the event on the 22nd Nov is to restrict girls over 37 and boys over 25+ only.
- So far for the event in Nov, registration for boys has been closed with 125 boys who have registered. 100 girls have registered and Rameshbhai has requested affiliated organisations to promote this event for more girl registrations before closure in a week.
 - A sub committee meeting to be convened to discuss food and duties.
 - Consider including a candidates photograph in the list distributed prior to the event.
- Rameshbhai previously considered having a follow-up meeting to speed-dating. However there was not sufficient interest therefore the event was cancelled.
- Next event will be at Sattavis Patidar Centre on the 20th Nov. 2016.
- There will be free matrimonial registration for all those attending speed dating.

8) Matrimonial Register

- Previously there were issues with registration of new candidates. This has now been resolved with registrations that can take place on our website.
- Currently there are 75 Boys and 94 Girls on the register who have paid
- The list of boys and girls was printed & posted to all registered members on 2.6.15
- A reminder E-Mail has been sent to those members whose subscriptions were due for renewal however the response is very poor with only handful who have renewed.
- This year 30 new registrations have been received since 1st Jan16. With the free offer at the last speed dating event 13 Girls and 7 Boys took advantage of free offer.
- 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.

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

Same sex partnership etc. was discussed as to whether NCVA should give considerations. Manharbhai stated that this would not be promoted or considered by NCVA.

9) Spiritual Care and Community Care

Spiritual Care

- 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. Material is being

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produced by Manharbhai and Shashibhai following a number of meetings, which will be distributed when available.

- Important to identify as a Jain in hospitals.
- Promoting hospitals to provide Jain food . A number initiatives are being considered however is difficult for hospitals where there are only a few patients who are Jains.
- Lot of changes happening within NHS England. Religious/Non beliefs laws are changing. There have been instances where hospitals authorise individuals to volunteer directly. Discussions are taking place with NHS England to ensure authorisation is sought from NCVA before placements are made. This will make sure the support that is provided is well coordinated.
- 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. NCVA is therefore seeking committed volunteers for hospital placing. Recently information on volunteering has been circulated to all members registered on the Vanik's database as well as promotion through the health seminar.

10) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

- As the public facing website (www.ncva.co.uk) will not be supported by Microsoft from 9th Mar 2017 work on migration has now completed by Bhupenbhai. The website is now live with Bhupenbhai updating with information that becomes available. Bhupenbhai has asked for information that is of interest to be sent to him for inclusion.

Vanik Directory - The current developers of the Vanik Database have been approached with the view of migrating the Vanik Database onto a new platform and providing additional functionality that has previously been discussed. This has progressed well with all requirements defined and agreed for incorporation including amalgamation of Vanik.co.uk and NCVA.co.uk websites. A contract has now been signed and work has begun. It is expected the new site will be launched in the second quarter of next year. The cost of moving onto a new platform and amalgamation is around 19k.

E-Newsletter

- The last Vanik Voice was published in Jul 2016 and Anilbhai is working on the next release.
- All affiliated organisations were asked to provide details of events and articles for publication into the next issue of Vanik Voice.
- New initiatives on community support to be included in the next edition of Vanik Voice.
- A report of the last health seminar will be included in Vanik Voice.

Facebook – a page should be included for NCVA.

11) Health Seminar

The National Council of Vanik Associations (NCVA) in collaboration with NVA arranged a health Seminar with support from Dr Ameet Bakhai, Consultant cardiologist.

The seminar was arranged at the Navnat Centre on the 23rd Oct 2016 with over 250 people who attended. As part of the registration, all attendees were provided a healthy snack bar and a drink.

Akash Gandhi introduced the day's programme followed by Dr Ameet's profile and background.

Dr Ameet then went through the functions of the heart and engaged with the audience during the days presentations. Dr Bakhai then went through the Presentation on Heart function and showed

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several videos of the heart function and abnormal hearts. This was then followed by four community members who shared their experience of Bypass for heart attacks, Atrial fibrillation, Valve disease and Pacemaker .

Following the experience sharing, Dr Ameet concluded his session with a Questions and Answers session.

Following the questions and answers session, Mrs Alpa Kothari introduced the work undertaken by NCVA as part of the Jain spiritual care. This session also included new initiatives being pursued and the chaplaincy programme within hospitals and how the community could help.

Mr Manhar Mehta and Mr Dhiru Galani closed the session by thanking all the volunteers and provided a gift to Dr Bakhai and those members who shared their experience with the audience.

This was followed by a healthy lunch to all who attended.

In summary the health seminar was a great success with all those who attended provided excellent feedback and wanting more seminars of the same kind.

NCVA would like to thank all co-ordinators and volunteers who helped organised this event without which this would not have been a success.

12) NCVA Name Change

The change of the NCVA name was raised at the meeting to see if there is a desire to alter the name particularly as changes to the websites have now been initiated.

Further, members still consider activities undertaken by NCVA to be those of Navnat Vanik Association. The topic was previously discussed in Mar 2012 where a decision was made to change, however for whatever reason was not taken further.

Previously a number of names were proposed and discussed. The following names were submitted and discussed by the attendees at the meeting in 2012.

- Vanik Alliance (UK)
- Vanik Federation (UK)
- Vanik Foundation (UK)
- Vanik Council (UK)
- Vanik connections (UK)
- Vanik United (UK)
- Vanik Fusion (UK)
- Vanik Support (UK)
- Vanik Ekta (UK)
- Vanik Link (UK)
- Vanik Union (UK)
- National Vanik Council
- National Council of Vaniks

Following a lengthy discussion in 2012, the name **Vanik Council (UK)** was selected.

Following further discussions at this meeting, a vote was taken by all who attended to decide if we should change the name to **Vanik Council (UK)**. It was unanimously agreed to change to the new name. The meeting endorsed the name change and agreed the changes to the affected clauses of the constitution in accordance with the clause '**Alterations and amendments to the Constitution**'.

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13) Donations to Charity

As part of the funds available to promote Jainism, it was agreed that we should donate 5k this year and 10k next year to charities. However, the constitution will be checked to ensure this can be done. The decision as to where the donations will be spent will be taken later.

14) 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.

Fundraising committee doing well to raise funds for the building project.

Demolition expected to complete by Mar 2017

Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj

- A Chilli and Chocolate Evening – 12th Nov.
- 3rd Dec Christmas Panto Cinderella
- Annual Tour – 21st Jan 2017 to 7th Feb 2017

Summary from – Navnat Vadil Mandal

- Coach trips being planned.

Summary from Jain Samaj Europe

- The religious activities are taking place like Satsang on first Sunday of the month, Aymbil Olyi took place in April, religious classes on each Monday evening and on Tuesday morning, regular groups visiting temple etc.
- Jayeshbhai's replacement is being sought.
- Diwali Exhibition Oct/Nov 2016
- Jain Bhagini Kendra – Diwali programme – 12th Nov
- Jain Samaj hosted Sabras Radio – Oct 2016

Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex

- New committee has been elected and formed
- Building has been purchased and will be converted into a Derasar, subject to availability of funds.
- Plans to extend to a two storey. Planning permission is already available.
- Need support to raise funds

Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex Bhagini

- New committee has been elected and formed

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South East Jain Association – Virendrabhai Bakhai

- Weight loss management course currently taking place.

15) AOB

- Prathna support to be provided by NCVA. Currently the view is that it is being commercialised.

16) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

19th Feb 2017 – hosted by Shree Jain Sangh East London and Essex