

The National Council of Vanik Associations (UK)

Live and help to live

Chairman

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Charity no. 1137083

General Secretary

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Minutes of the NCVA Biennial Council meeting held on 11 Oct 2015 at the 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; Navin Sheth; Saroj Varia, Vijay Sheth, Harkishan Mehta, Shashi Shah; Bharat Mehta; Asha Mehta; Dhiru Galani; Bina Holden; Saroj Shah; Virendra Bakhai; Bhupen Vasa; Chetna Desai; Nitin Parekh; Bharat Parekh;

Apologies: Anil Shah; Kalpit Doshi; Chandri Vora; Kiran Mehta; Narendra Vora; Chand Patel; Raaxeet Shah; Harshida Mehta; Asha Parekh; Harshad Kothari; Raksha Shah; Anil Parekh; Usha Mehta

1) Prayers

The meeting started at 11:45 with all present reciting the prayer.

2) Welcome and apologies

All attendees were welcomed to the NCVA's office with introductions from all those who attended.

The Chairman also welcomed Virendrabhai Bakhai from South East Jain Association whose organisation has recently joined NCVA.

3) Approval of Minutes of 09-Aug-15

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

4) Matters Arising

None.

5) Treasurers Report

The accounts were presented at the last council meeting, however were circulated

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

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

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again at this meeting to those who were not present at the last meeting. Jayeshbhai provided a quick summary of the accounts.

The treasurer reiterated the amalgamation of the funds from the Vanik Professional Group to the general fund. Manharbhai also mentioned that discussions had taken place with the auditors who also suggested consolidating the funds.

Dhirubhai commented that these funds should have been kept separate and there was no need to amalgamate. However, as the decision was already reached previously, the funds would be amalgamated. It was agreed that these funds would be used to help educate our community by holding seminars and events associated with the Vanik Professional Group (Inheritance tax, Pensions etc)

6) Secretary's Report

Emails continue to be received from members requesting changes to the data held in the on-line directory. These continue to be addressed, when possible.

Distribution of information that is be 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 and were encouraged at the meeting to use this facility to make information available to members throughout the UK. More recently the following information has been circulated to all members in the NCVA database.

- Navnatri Flyer from Navnat
- Gandhi Peace Walk
- Smaranjali from Navnat
- Jainism Workshop from IOJ
- Modi Event – Making all organisations aware.

Some other areas that has consumed effort in the past include –

- Publishing and issue of the Vanik directory during the last quarter of 2014.
- 35 year celebration in Leicester during Jun 2014
- Health Seminar in East London - NCVA and Shree Jain Sangh – May 2015

Broadband - has now been installed in our office and all attendees were given details on its use.

Video Conference - We have also purchased Microsoft Round Table Video Conference facility to allow individuals to join meetings when they are unable to travel to a meeting. In particular when NCVA meetings are held in London, all organisations across the country should now be able to join these meetings via Skype This facility is also available to all affiliated organisations who wish to use the system.

7) Matrimonial Register & Speed Dating

Matrimonial Register

- All affiliated organisations were encouraged to promote this service which NCVA provides to their members.
- The register holds records for 107 females and 87 males.
- Matrimonial register is now fully operational online.
- All new applications and payments are done on-line.

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Jaymanbhai indicated that the administration of payment from applicants every year consumes a lot of time. Therefore he proposed introducing a one off fee for members who wish to join the matrimonial register rather than seeking an annual renewal fee. Following discussions at the meeting, it was agreed that we would continue with the current system with renewal every year.

Speed Dating

- The next event is planned on the 15-May-2016 at the Navnat Centre.
- Rameshbhai mentioned various issues that he faced in reconciling payments against registrations and an integrated system is necessary. The possibility of using 'Eventbrite' will now be considered for future events.
- Rameshbhai is also considering having a follow-up meeting with speed-dating attendees to give an opportunity to participants to meet, particularly when both individuals have a desire to meet. The feedback received indicates that participants are having difficulty in arranging meetings even though both have indicated a desire to meet again. This will be discussed further by the speed dating committee.

8) Spiritual Care and Community Care

Spiritual Care

- One new volunteer has joined Chaplaincy in a Leicester hospital.
- A prison office from Market Harborough (near Leicester) has approached us for advice for a prisoner who has declared his religion as Jain.
- 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. Despite our effort, community members are not coming forward.
- NHS is asking to extend the spiritual care into the community. This involves wellbeing to community members not just hospital members. This includes holistic care – body, mind and soul.
- We are collaborating with NHS Brent to support their project for mental health.
- We are also in discussions with NHS health to provide health services to the elderly.

Community Health

Previously there have been discussions on holding a simultaneously health event in every region on the same day. An email will be sent to all organisations with detail of the proposal. All organisations were asked to support this proposal and respond to the secretary once the email has been received.

9) E-Newsletter and Website

Website

- The public facing website (www.ncva.co.uk) will not be supported by Microsoft from 9th Mar 2017 and therefore will be closed. Work on the website will need to begin to develop and host it elsewhere prior to closure.
- The Vanik Directory held online has a number of issues and is in need of being revamped to help with updates and future maintenance.
- Bhupenbhai has joined NCVA and will help with updates to the current/new website.

E-Newsletter

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

10) Review of Annual Subscriptions.

At the last meeting there were discussions on increasing subscriptions on representations from affiliated organisations to NCVA. This topic was discussed with the majority of attendees agreeing to an increase from £5/representative to £10. This was considered reasonable considering there has been no increase in the past.

The Chairman asked for all organisations to discuss the proposed increase at their next meeting and provide feedback to the General Secretary. A decision will then be made at the next NCVA council meeting.

11) Area Chairmen's reports.

Summary from Jain Network

- Paryushan celebration was well attended and successful.
- More youngsters are now participating in activities within Jain Network.
- Preparations are being made for Ayambil Oli

Summary from Navnat Vanik Association

- Priti Bhojan – Record number of attendees – 1425
- Navnatri Celebrations start – 13th Oct 2015
- Paryushan celebration was very successful and well attended.

Summary from Navnat Vanik Bhagini Samaj

- Free Health talk on Diabetes – 23rd Oct-2015
- Ladies Garba& Rass for Ladies and Children – 17-Oct-2015
- Diwali Celebration – 27-Nov-2015
- Christmas Party – 5-Dec-2015

Summary from – Shree Navyug Jain Pragati Mandal

- Paryushan celebration was very successful.
- Priti Bhojan – Very good attendance.

Summary from – Navnat Vadil Mandal

- Coach being arranged for visit to Leicester where Dr Rameshbhai Mehta of Jain Samaj is honoured by the Leicester Council to Switch on the Diwali lights .

Summary from Aden Vanik

- Diwali dinner and dance on 20-Nov-2015

12) AOB for the present team

- The chairman thanked all members for the support provided to the National Council of Vanik Association.
- Donations requests from India have been received. This will be discussed at the next council meeting.

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- Bharatbhai suggested that NCVA should publish a Vanik Professional Directory to promote business within our community. The current VANIK database contains fields that will allow this extract. As part of changes to the online Vanik directory this request will be considered.

13) Dissolution of EC and appointment of Returning Officer

- The outgoing EC was dissolved and a vote of thanks proposed for them.
- Nitinbhai Parekh was invited to chair the election proceedings for the new EC

14) Election of office bearers and EC members

- The following nominations having been received resulted in the election of the following office bearers and committee members.
- The vice chair for midlands will be declared following the next meeting held by Jain Samaj Europe.

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Manharlal Mehta	Kirit Batavia	Bharat Mehta
Vice Chair North	Kiranbhai Mehta	Manharlal Mehta	Mahesh Gandhi
Vice chair Midlands			
Vice Chair London	Vijaybhai Sheth	Jayeshbhai Shah	Bina Holden
Vice chair South	Harkishanbhai Mehta	Jayeshbhai Shah	Bharatbhai Mehta
Secretary	Mahesh Gandhi	Harkishanbhai Mehta	Shashibhai Shah
Joint Secretary	Bharatbhai Mehta	Manharlal Mehta	Mahesh Gandhi
Treasurer	Jayeshbhai Shah	Mahesh Gandhi	Vijaybhai Sheth
EC 1	Shashibhai Shah	Jayeshbhai Shah	Vijaybhai Sheth
EC 2	Rameshbhai Shah	Manharlal Mehta	Mahesh Gandhi
EC 3	Virendrabhai Bakhia	Vijaybhai Sheth	Kiritbhai Batavia
EC 4	Saroj Varia	Asha Mehta	Vijaybhai Sheth
EC 5	Bina Holden	Asha Mehta	Vijaybhai Sheth
EC 6	Kiritbhai Batavia	Bharatbhai Mehta	Manharlal Mehta
EC 7	Asha Mehta	Chetna Desai	Bina Holden
Co-Opt 1	Chirag Bajaria		
Co-Opt 2	Jaymanbhai Mehta		
Co-Opt 3	Bhupenbhai Vasa		
Co-Opt 4	Dhirubhai Galani		
Co-Opt 5			
Editor Vanik Voice	Anilbhai Parekh	Manharlal Mehta	Mahesh Gandhi
Honorary Auditors	PSJ Alexander and Co		

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Members of the sub committees are as follows:-

Sub Committees for 2015-17					
Activity		Co-ordinator	Committee Members		
Speed Dating (Patra Parichaya)		Ramesh Shah	Jayman Mehta	Roopal Punater	Asha Mehta
			Chirag Bajaria	Saroj Varia	Shashi Shah
			Mahesh Gandhi	Bharat Parekh	
Matrimonial Register		Jayman Mehta	Ramesh Shah	Chirag Bajaria	Manhar Mehta Mahesh Gandhi
Jain Spiritual Care & Vaishnav Spiritual Care		Shashi Shah	Manhar Mehta		Bharat Mehta Bina Holden
			Mahesh Gandhi	Jayman Mehta	
Web site		Chirag Bajaria	Dhiru Galani	Manhar Mehta Jayman Mehta Bhupen Vasa	Mahesh Gandhi
Vanik Voice		Mahesh Gandhi	Manhar Mehta Anil Parekh		
Community Health (Health & other seminars)		Harshad Mehta	Manhar Mehta Mahesh Gandhi	Kirit Batavia Bina Holden	Bharat Mehta Saroj J Shah
Jain Funeral rites		Manhar Mehta	Jayman Mehta	Jayantibhai Ghelani	
			Shashi Shah		
			Hitesh Rayani	Vijay Sheth	

15) Urgent issues for the new committee, Resolution for bank signatories.

The chairman stated that the bank accounts held would be operated as per current practice i.e. by the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary with any two to sign. The council agreed to this.

16) AOB

None

17) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7th Feb 2016 London